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Near East & South Asia

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FBIS-NES-95-187 *27 September 1995*

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Al-Qadhdhafi Reportedly Orders Palestinians To Leave

NC2609130395 Paris AFP in English 1256 GMT 26 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Al-Sallum, Egypt, Sept 26 (AFP)—Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has ordered all Palestinians to leave the country, a Libyan official said here on Tuesday [26 September].

"On Sunday, authorities sent letters to all the Palestinians in Libya ordering one group to leave the country within 24 hours and the remainder within 48 hours," a Libyan border official who requested anonymity told AFP.

Libyan Government 'Source' Denies Reports

LD2609194095 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tripoli, 26 Sep — A source at the General People's Committee for Justice and Public Security has denied reports circulated by some information media today that the Great Jamahiriyah had given the Palestinians resident in Libya a period of 48 hours to leave it.

UN Official on Libya's Deportation of Palestinians

JN2609150295 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 26 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The official in charge of foreign relations in the United Nations Office of High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR] in Cairo warned against the exacerbation of the issue of the Palestinians, deported from Libya. He said this issue has not been resolved yet.

This statement was in reply to Libya's deportation of 1,500 Palestinians today. The official said that the deportees are on their way to al-Sallum post on the Egyptian borders.

Palestinians Reaffirm 'Support' for al-Qadhdhafi

LD2609155995 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 26 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian masses in the town of Zallah have reaffirmed their commitment to the principle of the total liberation of the usurped Palestinian Arab land. In a cable to the brother leader of the Great 1 September Revolution, these masses also reaffirmed their support for what the brother leader of the revolution said in his speech celebrating the 26th anniversary of the Great 1 September. They said that they are waiting for the day of their return to Palestine to rid it of its usurpers and liberate it. They condemned those who are trying to prevent Palestinian masses from returning to Palestine.

Sudan's Amasib: Libya To Expel 300,000 Sudanese

NC2609153895 Paris AFP in English 1536 GMT 26 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, Sept 26 (AFP) — Three hundred thousand Sudanese are to be expelled from Libya on the orders of leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, a senior Sudanese official said Tuesday [26 September].

About 300,000 Sudanese are to be deported from Libya "as part of internal measures by the Libyan authorities," Salah Muhammad 'Uthman Amasib, the acting secretary general of the Sudanese expatriates bureau told AFP.

He said the measures were taken in line with Libyan law ordering all aliens illegally residing in Libya to leave the country.

Sudan had moved to help those kicked out of the country by setting up a committee.

The news came amid reports that al-Qadhdhafi on Sunday ordered all the 30,000 Palestinians in the country to leave, with the first wave of 1,500 expected later at the Salloum border post in Egypt.

Palestinian Affairs

Council of Ministers Discusses Taba Talks

JN2309140195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1210 GMT 23 Sep 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza; from "Today's Events" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Chaired by President Yasir 'Arafat, the National Authority's [NA] Council of Ministers held its weekly meeting at the Presidential Office in Gaza today. The meeting was concluded a short while ago. The meeting came hours before the resumption of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations in Taba this afternoon.

The Council of Ministers discussed the Taba talks presided over by President 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

Minister of Housing Zakariya al-Agha said that the signing of a final agreement on the implementation of the second phase of the Declaration of Principles [DOP] agreement depends on the position of the Israeli side. He added that all sticking points should be resolved before

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an agreement is reached. Regarding the conditional aid to be extended by the United States to the NA, Dr. al-Agha said: I believe that the content of the U.S. Senate's decision is meaningless, especially since the NA has no offices in East Jerusalem. However, these are Palestinian offices and corporations, he noted.

Justice Minister Furayh Abu-Middayin said that several issues are still unresolved. He said the Israeli side has reversed its position on the issue of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli occupation prisons and on the issue of legal affairs in Zone B, relating to villages and rural areas where the Israelis demand full control. Abu-Middayn stressed that this is rejected by the Palestinian side. He said that the issue of Hebron was not settled yet. He noted that the area of Jericho should be defined again in accordance with the Cairo agreement. He said that the Israeli intelligence organ Shabak is the party that opposes the decision made by the committee charged with the issue of prisoners and which is chaired on the Israeli side by [Amnon] Shahaq.

President 'Arafat will meet with Peres in Taba to resume their discussions to work out a final agreement on the second phase of the DOP.

In another development, 'Arafat is holding a meeting with Belgian Crown Prince Philippe at the Presidential Office in Gaza. President 'Arafat will host a luncheon banquet in honor of the great guest.

PLO Executive Committee Approves Taba Accord

JN2709075095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 27 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At its meeting chaired by President Yasir 'Arafat in Tunis yesterday, the PLO Executive Committee approved the agreement to implement the second phase of the Declaration of Principles on condition that the redeployment process begins 10 days after the agreement is signed, in accordance with the timetable agreed upon by the two sides.

Jawid al-Ghusayn, member of the PLO Executive Committee, spoke to Fathi al-Barqawi on the Tunis meeting:

[Begin recording] [al-Barqawi] What was the atmosphere in Tunis last night?

[Al-Ghusayn] The meeting was positive. What has been achieved so far is a positive achievement and a step on the long, arduous path. It is a positive step. This is definitely the beginning of the road. With perseverance and sincere convictions, we will be able to regain our rights.

[Al-Barqawi] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] is on his way to the White House. On the way, he will meet with French President Jacques Chirac and British Prime Minister John Major. What should we Palestinians expect from these meetings?

[Al-Ghusayn] These meetings are positive. The Palestinian people will regain their rights with perseverance and sincere work. We are at the beginning of the road. We are facing a tenacious adversary. The Israelis do not look at the long-term results of the peace process. They are like a difficult vendor, haggling over each letter and each point. We would have preferred more time to discuss the agreement's details but what was achieved is a positive step, and I can say that this is the beginning of a long path. With the conviction and efficiency of the Palestinian negotiations and with perseverance we will be able to regain our rights.

[Al-Barqawi] Was the Taba agreement approved yesterday?

[Al-Ghusayn] The Executive Committee approved the Taba agreement yesterday.

[Al-Barqawi] Was it by a majority vote or unanimously? How was it done?

[Al-Ghusayn] The approval was by an absolute majority.

[Al-Barqawi] How many attended?

[Al-Ghusayn] They were nine. Bishop Iliya Khuri is ill and he sent authorization that he approves the agreement. [end recording]

Yasir 'Arafat Cited on Taba Agreement

MM2709093595 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 27 Sep 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "'Arafat Talks to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT About Taba Agreement: We Have Not Achieved What We Want, But We Have Achieved the Maximum Possible"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tunis, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has said that the Palestinian people have begun to move gradually and practically toward building a Palestinian state. In this context he pointed to a recent statement by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, namely that there are two entities which should be recognized and that this [Palestinian] entity would lead to a Palestinian state.

President 'Arafat was speaking to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Tunis two days after the Oslo-2 agreement was signed in the Egyptian resort of Taba.

'Arafat said that in this agreement the Palestinian side managed to stress the importance of continuing to

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implement what was agreed and signed in Washington and Cairo.

'Arafat criticized those who criticized the first agreement and described it as the "Gaza first and last" agreement. He said: The present agreement allows the Palestinian people in the West Bank as a whole and in Gaza to be under their National Authority for the first time, regardless of a negative point here or there!

'Arafat pointed out that the outlines of a new phase in the Middle East have now been drawn. He said that the Palestinian side has not achieved all that it wants from the Israeli side, but it has achieved more than what is possible to obtain. [as published] Nor has the Israeli side achieved all that it wants, because the negotiations always produce agreed formulas, not the formula sought by one party.

'Arafat praised Saudi Arabia and the role played by Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and his continued support of the Palestinian people.

He said: "I cannot forget the day on which we signed the recent agreement. I went to Cairo to meet with President Husni Mubarak, and both the Egyptian president and I contacted King Fahd. I asked him for his blessing of it, so he granted his blessing and congratulations. And I thanked him for all the support he provides for the Palestinian people."

'Urayqat: Accord Hinges on Israel 'Political Decisions'

JN2309153095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1220 GMT 23 Sep 95

[From the "Today's Events" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian-Israeli negotiations will resume in Taba this evening in another bid to reach agreement and initial an accord after obstacles and pending issues are overcome. Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, who is expected to initial the agreement for the Palestinians, spoke to our radio about today's negotiations. He said:

[Begin 'Urayqat recording] The negotiations today will focus on the issues that have not been settled yet. There are 18 details concerning the main issues, including Hebron, the detainees, the maps, and the legal issues.

I believe there is a very great possibility of resolving these issues. However, all this depends on the political decisions which the Israeli foreign minister will come back with. Most of these issues require political decisions, not decisions that can be made during the negotiations. We hope we can end these lengthy negotiations this evening and sign this agreement, which should have been signed on 13 July 1994. We are not talking about the final agreement. We are talking about the second part of the Oslo Agreement, which concerns the transitional phase, and will pave the way for us — immediately after signing an agreement on it — to the negotiations of the final stage that are expected to begin on 4 May 1996. Everything, as I have said, hinges on the decisions which Peres will return this evening. [end recording]

PA Official: Taba 'Foundation' for Coexistence

BR2509142795 Rome L'UNITA in Italian 25 Sep 95 p 4

[Interview with Hanna Sinyurah, "key figure in economic and trade relations between the Palestinian Authority and Europe," by Umberto de Giovannangli; place and date not given — first paragraph is L'UNITA introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] "It is a very important day for the Palestinian people. Not only has Taba sanctioned self-rule for the West Bank, but it has laid the foundations for the Palestinian State. The Israeli Right is on the warpath, shouting its rage, and swearing that it will not stand by the agreements if it gets into government. It is an irresponsible stance, taken up by people who feel cut off from history. The truth of the matter is that the Taba settlement has rendered peace between the Israelis and Palestinians irreversible." Thus spake Hanna Sinyurah, one of the most highly respected and best-known Palestinian leaders in the Territories. The former editor of AL FAJR, East Jerusalem's Arabic-language daily, Sinyurah is now a key figure in economic and trade relations between the Palestinian Authority [PA] and Europe.

[De Giovannangeli] What do you think of the settlement reached in Taba?

[Sinyurah] We have laid the foundations for the future state of Palestine, the ultimate goal of our struggle, the dream of whole generations of Palestinians. Indeed, the institutions that we will be called upon to elect are those of a state: a parliament, a government, and a president. The Palestinian Autonomy Council [as published] has a broad membership and legislative powers, and this will make it possible to widen the range of forces that will fight the forthcoming elections. Taba strengthens not only Yasir 'Arafat's leadership but, above all, the call for democracy and the demand for pluralism going up from Palestinian society.

[De Giovannangeli] The negotiations threatened to founder on the "rock" of Hebron. What is your assessment of the agreement reached on this point?

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[Sinyurah] It is the other great success wrought by 'Arafat. Hebron's history and size give it special importance in the eyes of the Palestinian people and the Muslim world. Well, the agreement gives the Palestinians authority over 85 percent of the city. The 415 settlers remain, and their presence, which will in any case be temporary, may give rise to further friction, but what counts the most today is that the Palestinian flag will fly over the city of Abraham. Another very important point is the one that concerns the release of the 6,000 Palestinians imprisoned in the Israeli jails. We wanted a precise timetable to be drawn up for their release, and it was done.

[De Giovannangeli] The Israeli Right has announced that it will do all within its power to oppose what it describes as a "shameful" surrender to the Palestinians.

[Sinyurah] It is a hysterical reaction, and also an irresponsible one; it mirrors that of the Palestinian fundamentalist groups. The Israeli extremists, like their Palestinian counterparts, are prisoners of the past, but for all their fanaticism, they will not succeed in sabotaging the peace process, which the Taba agreement has rendered irreversible. They will not succeed because the majority of the Palestinian people, like the majority of Israelis, wants a normal life, not a life marked by hatred and insecurity. This is why Taba is important: It lays the foundation on which two peoples and two states can coexist in Palestine.

Hebron Mayor Not Satisfied With Taba Accord

JN2609173895 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Hebron obstacle continued to impede the conclusion of an agreement, but was settled as is. We sought to sound out the opinion of one of those who is directly concerned, Hebron Mayor Mustafa al-Natshah. Kamal Tarabayh asked him whether he is satisfied with what was reached between the two sides in Taba.

[Begin recording] [al-Natshah] We are not satisfied with this for one major reason — the settlers will remain in Hebron, and part of the city will remain under the Israeli army's control. On the other hand, we are satisfied with the Israeli army's withdrawal from the other parts of the city, their handing it over to the Palestinian National Authority, and with the deployment of 400 armed Palestinian policemen.

[Tarabayh] Brother Mustafa al-Natshah, do you believe that the implementation of the provisions on Hebron which are in this agreement will contribute to restoring total calm in the city of Hebron?

[Al-Natshah] I do not believe the calm we wish will prevail in the city. This is because the settlers are Israeli extremists and do not let an occasion pass without attacking the inhabitants under the sight and hearing of the Israeli army. I do not believe that the arrangements in the part of the city where the settlers will remain will prevent them from attacking Arab inhabitants because the Palestinian Authority does not have full control of the part the city in which the settlers will remain.

[Tarabayh] The Ibrahimi Mosque will remain under Israel's security control?

[Al-Natshah] It goes without saying that we believe that the Ibrahimi Mosque is an Islamic mosque and that non-Muslims do not have the right to pray in it. We only allow visits.

[Tarabayh] In short, Mustafa al-Natshah, as Hebron mayor you are not satisfied with the agreement?

[Al-Natshah] Not completely. However, we view this agreement, in a general manner, as being a step that will help build a Palestinian state in the future. Elections will be held in all the areas, and a Palestinian parliament will be elected for the first time. [end recording]

PFLP-GC Spokesman Denounces Taba Accord

JN2709082195 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 26 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Commenting on the Taba agreement, a spokesman for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine- General Command [PFLP-GC] said:

Since the signing of the first Oslo agreement in Washington on 13 September 1993, a series of increasingly large concessions by 'Arafat's authority followed. This authority actively pursued strugglers and did not spare any chance or occasion to promote and implement Zionist ideas. The Zionist self-rule protectorate became a big jail under 'Arafat and his authority, in which it practices various methods of repression and terrorism against our people.

After the contents of the Oslo agreement and its effects were exposed and after our people's resistance to it escalated through qualitative and other kinds of operations, the Zionist enemy, along with 'Arafat's authority, resorted to formulating a new agreement under the sponsorship of the U.S. Administration through fictitious negotiations whose conditions and results were defined by the Zionist negotiator.

Despite the theatrics that accompanied the Taba negotiations, the Zionist enemy achieved what it sought to secure the strategy of the occupation by consecrating the fait accompli and trying to liquefy the roots of the

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Palestine question. In this regard, the following points, which have very serious implications, define the identity of this Zionist-'Arafatist agreement:

1. The formal authority given to the so-called self-rule council has confirms the reality of this services council and makes it a mere Zionist vehicle to abort the ambitions of our people and to fight them.

2. The agreement restricts the movement of our people inside the West Bank and Gaza within the framework of the Zionist security and economic plan. It sets up barricades and crossings, which enable the Zionist settlers to paralyze the life of our kinsfolk whenever they want.

3. Maintaining settlements and settlers, who are stationed around cities and villages, particularly in the city of Hebron, stresses the reality of this agreement, which legalizes everything for the Zionists and shackles and deprives our people of everything. At a time when hundreds of thousands of our people in Hebron are denied freedom of movement on their land, the agreement grants a few hundred Zionist settlers the right to security and the right to impose their logic and sovereignty on the city.

4. The agreement consecrates the Zionist plan to scatter the Palestinian people and partition their land and rights. It also consecrates the occupation's authority on more than 85 percent of Palestine. It makes the remaining part subject to the authority that will ensure the realization of the Israelis' goals. In harmony with the security control plan, the Taba agreement maps specify isolated areas and ghettos for our people, who are larger in number.

5. According to the agreement's maps, Jerusalem, our eternal capital, is no longer considered part of the Arab identity. Its people are considered as transient communities living in it. The decision to let them take part in the so-called elections of the self-rule council by mail proves this fact.

6. The agreement divides Palestinian prisoners in the Zionist enemy's prisons into various groups. It stipulates conditions to release some of them according to Zionist and 'Arafatist political and security standards. This means that the majority of prisoners will remain inside the occupation's prisons, particularly those prisoners whose role terrifies the self-rule authority.

The spokesman went on to say: We in the PFLP-GC believe that this agreement is a challenge to our people's will and goals, a blatant violation of human rights, a U.S. encroachment upon our rights that will be used by the U.S. President in his election campaign, and high treason in which 'Arafat is deeply involved. We call upon all countries, parties, and organizations belonging to the civilized world to be alert to the danger of the siege imposed on the Palestinian people, the suppression to which they are subjected, and the falsification of their will. We emphasize our full right to repatriation and regaining of our national and historical rights on all our territory. We remind everyone that the Palestinian people, both inside and outside Palestine, have delineated their position and announced their rejection and resistance of the continuous aggression against them. We pledge to the masses of our people that we will continue the march for liberating the land and man. We have full confidence in our people, the nation, and the future of our cause.

[Signed] The PFLP-GC

[Dated] 26 September 1995

Editorial Welcomes Taba, Notes 'Outstanding Issues'

MM2609094095 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 26 Sep 95 p 9

[Editorial: "A Step Requiring Conviction"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The recent Taba agreement on the expansion of the Palestinian self-rule in the occupied West Bank opens the door for the Palestinian Authority's powers on its territory to be developed in the future into a nucleus for a Palestinian state with full sovereignty over the land and the people.

On that basis, namely the fact that it is a step toward restoring the Palestinian people's legitimate right to sovereignty, what the Palestinian and Israeli negotiators have achieved can be considered the "culmination of the two parties' courage" to solve the difficult problems, as U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said. Perhaps the most distinct lesson from the agreement — after months of arduous and difficult negotiations — is the Palestinian and Israeli sides' eagerness to display their fixed desire to move forward toward reinforcing the foundations of peace, which is still fragile.

But the Israeli forces' redeployment outside Palestinian residential areas, the transfer of administration from the Israeli military establishment to the Palestinian civil authorities, and even the holding of the Palestinian elections promised next April, do not guarantee that the Palestinians will be granted full sovereignty over their land and affairs unless these are followed by an agreement soon on the outstanding issues, specifically: the fate of the 120,000 Israeli settlers in the West Bank, the final status of east Jerusalem, the final shape of the borders separating Israel and the Palestinian self-rule area, and the Palestinian refugees' right to return to their homeland. However, the Rabin government's policy of

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leaving the thorny disputed points for the second phase of the self-rule negotiations — that is until at least the middle of 1997 — is bound to perpetuate Israeli security control of the Palestinian areas and the West Bank roads near the settlements and military positions.

Regardless of the conflict of powers that this security duality is going to cause on the one territory, it presages the domination of the Israeli security factor in the second phase of the self-rule negotiations as well as a persistence in obstructing the Self-Rule Authority's transformation into a nucleus for an independent Palestinian state.

From its occupation experience in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip Israel realizes that the practical settlement of a dispute between two conflicting nationalities over one territory is the clear separation of the boundaries of either nationality's sovereignty over its territory. This is confirmed by the Muslim-Serb dispute in Bosnia. This axiom necessitates that Israel accept the Palestinians' right to have full sovereignty over the West Bank and the Gaza Strip as a condition parallel with Israel's sovereignty over its territory. The sooner the Rabin Government establishes a nucleus for a Palestinian state in the West bank and the Gaza Strip, the sooner it will forge the required settlement in order to lay the foundations of a permanent peace in the Middle East.

Taba Seen Preserving 'Concealed Occupation'

MM2609113995 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 26 Sep 95 p 17

[Article by 'Abd-al-Wahhab Badrakhan: "Toward a 'State' Under Occupation?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The recent Palestinian-Israeli agreement gives a conspicuous impression that it worked to dilute the questions it is supposed to have resolved. Proof of this is the agreement's outcome as regards Hebron, since it was not clearly stipulated that it is Palestinian. The same applies to the water and the detainee issues. Perhaps the most important impression this agreement gives is that the Israelis find it difficult to implement the "Oslo declaration of principles," even though experience has tangibly proved to them that "Oslo" is not a real peace plan.

The dominant policy among the Israelis is to preserve the largest possible part of the occupation while getting rid of the largest possible proportion of the occupation's worries and transferring those worries to the Palestinian Authority, to keep it preoccupied with and drowned in their details.

This is why the maximum security pretext (Israel's security is sacred in Western and U.S. diplomacies) is used to justify keeping the largest part of the land under occupation. And the religious pretext or the Torah pretexts are used to plant military garrisons in the various Palestinian areas.

The agreement was reached after 13 months of negotiations, after a delay of over a year. The problem now lies in its implementation. Because Israel reminds itself daily, just as it reminds the Palestinians, that it respects the "unsacred dates" rule and tends to apply it eagerly. Add to this the fact that the implementation itself is likely to resort to the interpretation of many of the stipulations — which is not new to Israel's as regards its commitments toward the Palestinians. Through a delay here and procrastination and pressure there it could prove to any neutral observer that the "final status" negotiations could continue for years and that sharp disputes could occur over their content until the scandal is exposed, namely a "peace" along Israeli lines, that is a concealed occupation.

The hints by some Israeli officials who wanted to see in the recent agreement signs of the possible establishment of a "Palestinian state" (a state under occupation?!) are neither convincing nor innocent. These hints are designed to assure those opposed to the "Israeli peace process" on the Palestinian side. However, the stipulations of the agreement expose and negate these assurances. Proof of this is that more than one Palestinian official has pointed out that it all now depends on Israeli good "intentions." That is, a gamble is being taken, indeed a serious risk. Because these intentions are declared and overt, and the Palestinian negotiators were able to closely acquaint themselves with them. So how can they be relied on? This is one of the frightening riddles of the agreement.

The Palestinians cannot subject the Israelis to a test of intentions, because no authority or law governs the peace process and its negotiations. Even the "active mediator" — the American — tends to give predominance to the occupier's demands over the demands of the people seeking to recover their land. This mediator has been so neutral that it is content with hosting the signing ceremonies, paying no attention to the substance of the agreements. In fact it is paying no attention to the direction this peace is taking at the hands of the Israelis. Without doubt the invented "solution" concerning the status of Hebron gives an ambiguous and dark picture of the "final status." Without doubt the agreement on the water issue is a bad indication of the concept of the distribution of natural rights. Without doubt the way the detainees issue is handled is clear evidence of the continuation of the Israeli state terrorism, which is using the detainees as hostages to exert pressure on the Palestinian negotiator, exactly just as Washington used 29

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September, the date set for the start of U.S. Congress debate on future aid for the Palestinians. So the agreements had to be ready for signing on the eve of this date.

Hamas Spokesman on Possible Talks With PA

JN2709085095 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 27 Sep 95 p 1, 19

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) denies that President Yasir 'Arafat indicated that he wants to launch a dialogue with it during his short visit to Amman. The movement showed new flexibility vis-a-vis dialogue with the Palestinian Authority [PA].

Official Hamas spokesman Ibrahim Ghawshah told AL-ASWAQ that he asks 'Arafat to advance a step toward building confidence in preparation for a strategic dialogue. Ghawshah said that Hamas' acceptance of dialogue with the PA hinges on the release of the movement's prisoners from the PA's prisons. He said that when this step is taken, it will be possible to hold talks on all issues of concern to the PA and Hamas.

The official Hamas spokesman said his movement wants to discuss its platform at the negotiating table so that an agreement can be reached to avoid any contradiction between its platform the PA's from the beginning. He said that Hamas is open to any dialogue that serves the interests of the Palestinian people.

APF Criticizes Lebanon Decision on Entry, Exit

NC2509171095 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 23 Sep 95 p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] The Alliance of Palestinian Forces [APF] in Lebanon has criticized the interior minister's decision regulating Palestinians' entry to and exit from Lebanon. The Alliance said this decision spoils the life of Palestinians and reflects a vindictive and narrow-minded policy. A statement issued by the alliance yesterday evening says:

"The decision was deliberately given a misleading title, as though the entry of Palestinians into Lebanon and their departure were unregulated. Everybody knows that this is not the case; they know that all Lebanon's borders are controlled by the legitimate Lebanese authorities.

"Those targeted by the decision are basically the Palestinians who are legally resident in Lebanon. They carry official documents that competent Lebanese authorities issued after thorough scrutiny. The decision, therefore, seeks only to frustrate the Palestinians and spoil their lives over the issue of exit and entry.

"The decision adds to the misery of the Palestinians without doing any service for Lebanon, as some parties claim. This may raise the level of tension and frustration among the Palestinians. This is practically the best service that can be given the Oslo agreement and its proponents, while conversely weakening the Palestinian opposition.

"The decision proves that the reprehensible Libyan measure is being used as an excuse to pursue a narrow-minded policy, a vindictive policy aimed at bringing back certain climates we all must transcend. We all have to move toward civil peace and put the past behind us."

The Alliance appealed to all concerned to intervene in order to expand the way of dealing with major issues. It stressed its anxiety not to turn the Palestinian community in Lebanon into a besieged and hunted minority. The Alliance further said that "the violation of the law, human rights, and democracy may start with the Palestinians, but it will grow until no one can escape it."

The Alliance called on the Palestinians to declare a day of mourning, to fly black flags over their residences, and to show the maximum discipline and concern about security.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Israeli Document on Main Points of Taba Agreement

TA2709085395 (Internet) Israel Information Service in English 24 Sep 95

[Document entitled: "The Interim Agreement Between Israel and the PLO — Main Points"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

Background

The Interim Agreement between Israel and the PLO constitutes a new and important stage in the transition from conflict to reconciliation between Israel and the Palestinian people — as well as between Israel and the Arab states. The agreement is part of the peace process which began at Camp David, in 1978, with the ultimate aim of achieving peace in the whole region, and was resumed in October 1991 in Madrid. A breakthrough in Israeli-Palestinian relations was marked by the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements of September 13, 1993. This declaration set out the principles which are to govern Israel-Palestinian relations for an interim period of five years, until the implementation of a permanent status agreement.

To date, preliminary agreements implemented pursuant to the Declaration of Principles include the Gaza-Jericho

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Agreement of May 4, 1994 which provided for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Gaza Strip and the Jericho Area and the transfer of civil powers in these areas to a Palestinian Authority, and subsequent agreements giving the Palestinian Authority limited responsibilities for additional civil spheres throughout the West Bank. All these agreements are superseded by the provisions of the Interim Agreement.

The main object of the Interim Agreement is to broaden Palestinian self-government in the West Bank by means of an elected self-governing authority — the Palestinian Council. This will allow the Palestinians to conduct their own internal affairs, reduce points of friction between Israelis and Palestinians, and open a new era of cooperation and co-existence based on common interest, dignity and mutual respect. At the same time it protects Israel's vital interests, and in particular its security interests, both with regard to external security as well as the personal security of its citizens in the West Bank.

General

The Interim Agreement between Israel and the PLO, including its various annexes, comprises some 400 pages, setting forth the future relations between Israel and the Palestinians. To the main body of the agreement are appended six annexes dealing with: security arrangements, elections, civil affairs (transfer of powers), legal matters, economic relations, and Israeli-Palestinian cooperation.

The agreement states that a Palestinian Council will be elected for an interim period not to exceed five years from the signing of the Gaza-Jericho Agreement (i.e. no later than May 1999). The negotiations on the permanent status arrangements will begin no later than May 1996.

The permanent status negotiations will deal with the remaining issues, including Jerusalem, refugees, settlements, security arrangements, borders, relations and cooperation with neighboring countries, etc.

Elections

The Council is an elected body and, accordingly, the agreement sets out arrangements for democratic elections to the Council by all Palestinians of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip age 18 or over, who are registered in the population register. The elections will take place 22 days after the conclusion of an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment from populated areas in the West Bank.

The elections to the Council will be personal and by district. A separate election will be held simultaneously for the election of the Head of the Executive Authority of the Council.

The candidacy of an individual, a party or a coalition of parties shall be rejected if the said candidate, party or coalition professes racist views or acts in an illegal or undemocratic manner.

Palestinian residents of Jerusalem will be able to participate in the elections according to special arrangements detailed in the agreement. The voting will take place in localities outside Jerusalem and by means of special envelopes which will be sent from post offices to the Central Elections Committee. A Palestinian with a Jerusalem address who wishes to stand for election to the Palestinian Council will be able to do so only if he or she has an additional valid address in the West Bank or the Gaza Strip.

All stages of the election process will be open to international observation, to ensure that they are free and fair. At the request of the parties, the European Union has agreed to coordinate the election observation. The observer delegation will be composed of representatives from the following states and international organizations: the EU, the UN, the USA, the Russian Federation, Canada, Egypt, Japan, Jordan, Norway, South Africa, the Non-Aligned Nations, the OAU, and the Islamic Conference Organization.

The Palestinian Council

The Palestinian Council to be established following the elections will assume various powers and responsibilities in security and civil spheres in the West Bank and Gaza, as detailed below. With the establishment of the Council, the Israeli military government will be withdrawn and the Civil Administration dissolved. The Council will assume responsibility for all rights, liabilities, and obligations in the spheres transferred to it. At the same time Israel will retain those powers and responsibilities not transferred to the Council.

The Council, which will have 82 members, will have legislative and executive powers. The agreement provides that the legislative powers will be exercised by the Council as a whole, while its executive powers will be exercised by a committee of the Council — the Executive Authority. This committee shall comprise Council members together with a small number of appointed officials.

The powers of the Council will extend to all matters within its jurisdiction. It should be noted that it will not have powers in the sphere of foreign relations. The agreement does, however, provide for a number of areas in which the PLO may, on behalf of the Council, conduct negotiations and sign agreements (economic, donor countries, regional development).

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Security and Redeployment

The IDF will redeploy in the West Bank according to the timetable set out in the agreement. In the first stage, designed to facilitate the holding of elections, the IDF will withdraw from the populated areas of the West Bank: the six cities — Janin, Nabulus, Tulkarm, Qalqilyah, Ramallah and Bethlehem (in the city of Hebron special security arrangements will apply as provided in the agreement) — and 450 towns and villages. At the end of this redeployment, there will be almost no IDF presence in Palestinian population centers.

In general, throughout the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, Israel will have overall responsibility for external security and the security of Israelis and settlements.

With regard to internal security and public order, the agreement establishes different arrangements for three types of areas:

- Area "A" comprises the six cities listed above. In these areas, the Palestinian Council will have full responsibility for internal security and public order, as well as full civil responsibilities.

- Area "B" comprises the Palestinian towns and villages of the West Bank. In these areas, which contain some 68 percent of the Palestinian population, the Council will be granted full civil authority, as in Area "A". The Council will be charged with maintaining public order, while Israel will have overall security authority to safeguard its citizens and to combat terrorism. This responsibility shall take precedence over the Palestinian responsibility for public order.

25 Palestinian police stations will be established in specified towns and villages to enable the Palestinian police to exercise its responsibility for public order. The agreement contains provisions requiring that the movement of Palestinian police be coordinated and confirmed with Israel.

- In Area "C", which comprises the unpopulated areas, areas of strategic importance to Israel and the Jewish settlements, Israel will retain full responsibility for security and public order. The Council will assume all those civil responsibilities not related to territory, such as economics, health, education, etc.

Further Redeployments

In addition to the redeployment of Israeli military forces described above, the agreement provides that a series of further redeployments are to take place at six-month intervals following the inauguration of the Council. In the course of these redeployments, additional parts of Area C will be transferred to the territorial jurisdiction of the Council, so that by the completion of the redeployment phases, Palestinian territorial jurisdiction will cover West Bank territory except for the areas where jurisdiction is to be determined under the final status negotiations (settlements, military locations, etc.).

The Revocation of the PLO Covenant

The agreement contains an undertaking to revoke those articles of the Palestinian Covenant calling for the destruction of Israel, within two months of the inauguration of the Council.

The Security Policy for the Prevention of Terrorism and Violence

The agreement provides for the establishment of a strong police force, 12,000 in number, that will constitute the only Palestinian security force. The Security Annex specifies the deployment of the police force, the approved equipment and its modes of action.

The Security Annex specifies the commitment of Israel and the Palestinian Council to cooperate in the fight against terrorism and the prevention of terrorist attacks, according to the following framework:

A) The Palestinian Police is the only Palestinian Security Authority.

B) The Palestinian Police will act systematically against all expressions of violence and terror.

C) The Council will issue permits in order to legalize the possession and carrying of arms by civilians; any illegal arms will be confiscated by the Palestinian Police.

D) The Palestinian Police will arrest and prosecute individuals suspected of perpetrating acts of violence and terror.

Both sides, in accordance with this agreement, will act to insure the immediate, efficient and effective handling of any incident involving the threat, or acts of terrorism, violence or incitement, whether committed by Palestinians or Israelis. To this end they will cooperate in the exchange of information and coordinate policies and activities.

Joint security committees will be established to coordinate between the IDF and the Palestinian police. Regional offices will operate 24 hours a day. Joint patrols will ensure free and secure movement on designated roads in Area "A". Joint Mobile Units will serve as rapid response units in case of incidents and emergencies.

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Transfer of Civil Powers and Responsibilities

The agreement sets out the arrangements for the transfer of agreed upon civil powers and responsibilities from the Civil Administration to the Council. In Area "C", powers and responsibilities not relating to territory will be transferred to the Council; powers and responsibilities relating to territory will be gradually transferred along with the redeployments in these areas. The transfer of further civil powers and responsibilities is subject to detailed provisions insuring, among other things, the land rights of Israelis and the continued provision of services (electricity, water, telecommunications etc.) to the settlements.

Freedom of Movement for Israelis

The IDF and Israelis will continue to move freely on the roads of the West Bank and Gaza. In Area "A" Israeli vehicles will be escorted by joint patrols. Israelis may not in any circumstances be arrested or placed in custody by the Palestinian police, and may only be required to present identity and vehicle documentation. On roads that are jointly patrolled, any request for identification shall only be made by the Israeli side of a joint patrol.

Search for Missing Persons

Both sides shall cooperate, lending assistance to one another in the search for missing persons, and shall share pertinent information.

Legal Issues

The Legal Annex of the agreement sets out arrangements governing the legal relations between Israel and the Palestinian Council. These provisions define the criminal and civil jurisdiction of the Council and include arrangements for legal assistance in criminal and legal matters, including cooperation with regard to police investigations.

Religious Sites

Responsibility over sites of religious significance in the West Bank and Gaza will be transferred to the Palestinian side. In Area "C" this will be transferred gradually during the "further redeployment phase", except for the issues which will be negotiated during the permanent status negotiations. Both sides shall respect and protect religious rights of Jews, Christians, Moslems and Samaritans to wit:

A) Protecting the holy sites
B) Allowing free access to the holy sites
C) Allowing freedom of worship and practice

Jewish holy sites are listed in the agreement.

The agreement guarantees freedom of access to and freedom of worship at the holy sites, and defines access arrangements for the holy places located in Areas "A" and "B". With regard to Rachel's Tomb in Bethlehem and Joseph's Tomb in Nabulus, special arrangements are set out in the agreement which will also guarantee freedom of access and freedom of worship.

Hebron

In view of the Jewish presence in the heart of Hebron and the sensitive historical and religious aspects involved, special arrangements will apply in this city. These arrangements will enable Palestinian police to exercise responsibilities vis-a-vis Palestinian residents while at the same time Israel will retain the powers and responsibilities necessary to protect Israeli residents living in Hebron and visiting the holy places.

There will be a redeployment of Israeli military forces in Hebron, except for places and roads where arrangements are necessary for the security and protection of Israelis and their movements. This redeployment will be completed no later than six (6) months after the signing of this agreement. Israel will continue to carry the responsibility for overall security of Israelis for the purpose of safeguarding their internal security and public order.

The status quo at the Tomb of the Patriarchs will remain unchanged, for the time being.

There will be a temporary international presence in Hebron.

Human Rights

The agreement states that Israel and the Council shall carry out their functions and responsibilities while adhering to the international norms of human rights and the rule of law, guided by the obligation to protect the public, respect their fellow men and prevent harassment.

Water

The agreement contains an undertaking on the part of Israel to increase the amount of water allocated to the Palestinians by 28 million cu.m. Any further addition to either side will be based on an increase in the available water resources to be developed through international funding and channels, among them the tripartite American-Palestinian-Israeli forum which will hold its first meeting after the signing of the Interim Agreement. The agreement provides for the establishment of a joint water committee that will manage water resources and enforce water policies, protecting the interests of both

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parties by the prevention of uncontrolled drilling by enforcing standards, etc.

Release of Prisoners

In order to foster a positive atmosphere as this agreement is being implemented, and to engender mutual confidence and a basis for cooperation between the two peoples, Israel will release Palestinian prisoners who are in Israeli custody in three (3) stages according to the following format:

Stage 1 - Upon the signing of the agreement.
Stage 2 - On the eve of elections for the Council.
Stage 3 - According to other principles which will be established separately.

The number of prisoners to be released will be detailed in the Agreement.

An Israel-Palestinian Joint Committee will be established to discuss the details of the release of prisoners.

Cooperation and Economic Relations

The Economic Annex of the Gaza-Jericho Agreement has been incorporated into the Interim Agreement, and its appendices, including the establishment of a single economic unit for the purpose of customs and import policy, now apply to the whole of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

In addition, an entire annex of the agreement deals with cooperation between Israel and the Palestinian Council. The parties are committed to cooperation programs involving officials, institutions and the private sector in various fields, such as economics, science, culture and society. A standing committee will be established to foster such cooperation.

Cooperation will focus on five principal areas: environment, economics, technology and science, fostering dialogue, and relations between the two peoples.

In this context, the parties will work to develop contacts between the economic, agricultural, scientific and educational sectors, and to find common solutions for environmental protection, such as waste removal and clean energy sources. They will work to advance tourism through investment in infrastructure and joint initiatives, to advance education by the development of curricula, the training of sports instructors, youth exchange programs, drug prevention, etc.

Education for Peace

The agreement defines the relations between Israel and the Council. Both sides will act to strengthen understanding and tolerance, prevent incitement and hostile propaganda, and will use the legal means at their disposal to prevent incitement on the part of groups or individuals. Both sides have pledged that their educational systems will act to advance peace between Israel and the Palestinians.

Quray': Israel To Free 1,500 Detainees

TA2609130595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 26 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian Authority [PA] sources said that Israel has pledged to free all the female Palestinian security prisoners this week — a day or two after signing the agreement in Washington — including those sentenced to life imprisonment.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem notes that among those who will be freed is 'Abir al-Wahidi, who was convicted of murdering Tzvi Klein near Bet El two and a half years ago.

According to Hisham 'Abd-al-Raziq, who took part in the Taba talks, 28 female prisoners will be freed, most of them from the Hasharon Prison. In addition, security prisoners who have wounded Jews will be released in two groups. According to Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'], 1,500 prisoners will be freed on 28 September.

The Likud worries that the move will fill Judaea and Samaria with active terrorists and demands to be briefed on the criteria used to determine which prisoners will be released.

Minister Yosi Sarid again said that security prisoners who have murdered or badly wounded Jews will not be released. Women who were convicted of murder would be released only if the president pardons them. Sarid was speaking to our political correspondent Shlomo Raz.

Accord Marks 'Point of No Return' in Peace Process

MM2709092495 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 26 Sep 95 p 17

[Article by Mahir 'Uthman: "The Frame of Reference in Judging the Taba Accord"]

[FBIS Translated Text] When pondering the various reactions, and in particular the Arab and Israeli reactions, to the phased Palestinian-Israeli accord on extending Palestinian autonomy in the occupied West Bank, you have to consider the frame of reference of each side that has expressed a reaction, whether for or against the accord.

For the supporters of the accord, the Declaration of Principles over which the PLO and Israel secretly negotiated in Oslo constitutes the yardstick for measuring matters.

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It was in accordance with this yardstick that Ahmad Quray', the chief Palestinian negotiator, stated, following his initialing of the Taba accord the day before yesterday, that the accord has "improved on the Declaration of Principles...and constitutes a basis for the establishment of the Palestinian state." It was on this basis too that Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres described the moment of the signing of the accord as "historic in the full sense of the world...it is good for both sides...the facts on the ground might be better than the accord."

"Good for both sides," so the relationship between the Palestinians (between those in the West Bank and those in the Gaza Strip) no longer constitutes a zero-sum game in which one side loses everything and the other side wins everything. So there is a serious attempt to apply the Declaration of Principles on the ground, albeit slowly, despite the delayed withdrawal of the Israeli Army, which was scheduled to be completed by July 1994.

The statements which Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat made prior to the announcement of the Taba accord represented a meticulous reading of the experiment of negotiations with the Israelis and the realities of the balance of power, which is very much tilted in favor of Israel. They also reflected a determination to continue with the peace process until the end, irrespective of the difficulties, in order to achieve the basic objective, namely, the liberation of the Palestinians and their land from the grip of the Israeli occupation. President 'Arafat said: "Any accord, whatever its text may be, can only succeed through good intentions and precise and true implementation. The accord opens the way before us to a future in the region which we hope will mark the beginning of a new era in which the Palestinian people will be free, shouldering their role among the peoples of the region."

But the accord's detractors, particularly members of the extremist Jewish right and the Palestinian Islamists in "Hamas" and "Al-Jihad al-Islami," have a different frame of reference stemming from their rejection of the Oslo accord and their view of it as a flagrant act of treason. Ultra-fanatical Jewish rabbis have called on Israeli soldiers not to obey orders to withdraw from the lands of the West Bank, which, in their view, constitute part of the "Land of Israel," while Ibrahim Ghawshah, the Hamas spokesman in Amman, described the Taba accord as "more dangerous than the Cairo accord," adding: "The Palestinian side has ceded 70 percent of the land of the West Bank."

Those who believe in "all or nothing," whether representatives of the expansionist Israeli extremist right or of the Palestinian current which rejects the Oslo accord and Israel's existence, constitute the danger that lies in wait for the accord and might impede its implementation.

But what is wrong with the withdrawal of the Israeli Army, even in phased stages, from the cities, towns, and villages of the West Bank? What is wrong with the Palestinians assuming management of their internal affairs in all fields of life and enjoying this and the liberation from occupation, which has gone on for a long time. What is wrong with the Palestinians organizing the first elections in their history for a legislative council, elected by anyone of 18 or more years of age, of the people of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip? What would be wrong if the geographical jurisdiction of the legislative council "is extended to cover, by the end of the final phase of the redeployment of forces, the lands of the West Bank except for those agreed during the final stage of negotiations (the settlements, military positions etc...) in accordance with the Taba accord?

The Palestinian and Israeli sides have reached the point of no- return in their peace process. Furthermore, it seems increasingly evident that the detractors of the peace process will have to change their attitudes or be left behind by time.

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Algeria

Zeroual Requests Meeting With Chirac at UN

LD2609202095 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 26 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Algerian President Liamine Zeroual has asked to meet President Jacques Chirac in New York on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the United Nations on 22-23 October.

The Elysee says that France is deferring its reply to a later date.

Election Commission Denies Bias Allegations

LD2609224395 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement by the National Independent Commission for Monitoring the Presidential Elections said: Following reports published by some national newspapers, including AL-KHABAR, LIBERTE, and LE MATIN today, 26 September, quoting Mr. Redha Malek's statement made after the news conference he held, in which he levelled charges against the National Independent Commission for Monitoring the Presidential Elections, accusing it of bias and that it had not done anything practical, describing it as very slow and enquiring how it would deal with the increasing number of complaints by candidates.

The first distinguishing feature of the work of the National Independent Commission for Monitoring the Presidential Elections is complete independence in order to serve the higher interests of the homeland, and out of respect for the Algerian people's right to select their representatives.

The commission, which enjoys wide-ranging powers, is required by the commission's platform to restore credibility to all the state institutions, ensure an impartial course for the electoral process, and entrench the principle of fairness among all the candidates.

On the basis of these objectives, the right to reply and out of the National Independent Commission for Monitoring the Presidential Elections' concern to inform public opinion of the work it is doing within the framework of complete transparency, and following the unfounded accusations made by Redha Malek, the commission cannot accept any slander that undermines its independence, because it works within the framework of independence and is not subject to pressure from any side. It will endeavor to achieve that in practice, relying on the effectiveness of its members who represent all the presidential candidates, including Redha Malek, and the effectiveness of the regional committees for monitoring the elections.

The National Independent Commission for Monitoring the Presidential Elections is currently engaged in appointing the provincial committees for monitoring the elections, and it is prepared to deal with all the complaints and protests, and undertakes to make decisions about them fairly and firmly to safeguard the rights of all the candidates, without discrimination.

Finally, the National Independent Commission for Monitoring the Presidential Elections urges all the citizens, the candidates of political parties, and independent candidates to contribute toward consolidating complete independence in order for everyone to carry out their responsibilities for the interest of Algeria and to safeguard the democratic gain.

Ministry Defends 'Integrity' of Election Commission

LD2609170195 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Ministry of Interior, Local Authorities, Environment, and Administrative Reform today issued the following statement:

A candidate to the presidential elections has made before the press dangerous and regrettable statements on the integrity of the local authorities as regards the gathering of signatures from voters as stipulated by the law for every candidate.

In view of this situation, the Ministry of Interior, Local Authorities, Environment, and Administrative Reform, which is the ministry in charge of the local authorities, would like to let public opinion know that it categorically refutes the false accusations levelled by the person concerned at the local authorities, particularly those in Constantine, Souk Ahras, Skikda, and El Tarf, which have been unjustly accused. We deplore this repeated behavior, which is aimed at sowing doubt about the integrity of the state administrations.

PRA Presidential Candidate Interviewed

LD2609211995 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1228 GMT 26 Sep 95

[Interview with presidential candidate Noureddine Boukrouh, leader of the PRA, by unidentified correspondent in studio; date not given; from the "Presidential Elections 95" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Correspondent] Mr. Noureddine Boukrouh, you were the first to announce your intention to run in the presidential elections. In a recent statement made by your excellency, which was televised few days ago, you called on people to participate in these elections because, as you put it: They are genuine

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and free. News reports now say that you have withdrawn from the competition. What has happened?

[Boukrouh] In fact the news of President Liamine Zeroual's announcement to run for president created a problem inside the leadership of the PRA [Algerian Renewal Party]. There were also heated discussions. Our officials came from major regions, and even from abroad. Heated discussions took place and some of the officials asked me to withdraw my candidacy from the elections. But the final resolution was for me to stay in the competition to give the people the chance to cast their votes and to fight for a genuine change.

[Correspondent] Mr. Boukrouh, we would like to understand one thing: After Liamine Zeroual announced his candidacy, was the meeting of the PRA leadership held because the party feared that the credibility of these elections could be at stake, that they might not be free, and that there might not be equal opportunities for all candidates, or was it held for other reasons? Did the PRA think that the chances of its candidate were diminishing now that there was a candidate who had all these means available to him?

[Boukrouh] It was not a question of fear. The big problem for us was that we were in contradiction with the principle we had been defending for many months. From the very beginning, and for many years we had said that this Algerian crisis could be overcome by involving the people in the decision-making process through presidential elections in order to get out of the 1991 situation. However, we have always said that we would defend that principle on the condition that the people who are in charge of the transitional period, or of the organization of these elections are not a party to these elections.

Therefore, it seemed that we were in contradiction with that principle. This is why we were shocked by Zeroual's announcement, and we were slightly embarrassed because people might think that we were now contradicting ourselves. This was the first problem. The other issues are secondary. We are not afraid of Mr. Zeroual's candidature. We are aware of the fact that the administration will be at his service because we know about the established traditions and past practices. Even if he wanted the elections to be fair, we know that there will always be people at the grassroot level, within the public administration, among provincial authorities and so on, who would want to do more than is required of them. We are aware of that. However, despite all this, the problem was a problem of principle. We have solved this problem and we have said: So be it. On the contrary, we must enter these elections and we must fight more than ever before to show the people that these elections remain a possible opportunity to bring about change.

So we did not even consider that in the event of Zeroual's candidature it would be the end, that the elections would be rigged, that we would lose, and that this would confirm the idea which has been circulating recently, namely the so-called theory of the rabbits, which says that some people announced their candidature in order to pave the way for Mr. Zeroual. I can tell the people this: It is not true. We entered the presidential race with sincerity, and we believe that there should be a contest, a peaceful contest but a genuine contest, even against the candidate put forward by the authorities.

[Correspondent] Mr. Noureddine, when you said shock...

[Boukrouh, interrupting] Yes.

[Correspondent] Was there a mistake in your analysis regarding the transitional authorities and their nomination, and regarding the nomination of Mr. Liamine Zeroual for the presidency, or did you have some information? What actually happened?

[Boukrouh] It is not an issue of a mistake in the analysis. We did not make a mistake in our analysis. [indistinct passage omitted]

[Boukrouh] This is one of the conditions for giving the elections credibility and for giving neutrality credibility. We were advizing the people, all the parties, for the good of the country, that the authorities should not get involved in the elections so that the elections would go well. But Liamine Zeroual, as a person and also as an official, made his decision on the basis of things which are his concern and which he believes in.

But I am not saying that his involvement in the elections means that there will be vote rigging, that the elections will be rigged in his favor. There is nothing definite like that. What I am saying is that the decision remains for the people, and we are vigilant so that there should be strong competition in these elections.

Also we are vigilant so that no forgery occurs. Foreign observers will be present. So I would like to reassure the Algerian electors that they should perform their duty and participate in extricating the country from this crisis.

[Correspondent] Mr Boukrouh, only a few days separate us from the deadline set for collecting signatures backing candidates and submitting official candidacies to the attention of the Constitutional Council. The figures known so far concerning every candidate, including yourself, are contradictory to some extent. It is claimed

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that too many signatures have been collected for a certain candidate in a certain province, whereas too few, or rather a limited number of signatures have been collected for another candidate. What is the situation for you so far, all the more so because the public expected your party to give some information on this issue on 20 September?

[Boukrouh] Yes, we promised we hold a news conference and give all information regarding the collection of signatures. But on 19, 20, and even 21 September we had the problem of whether we should withdraw from, or stay in the electoral process. Members remained in our premises night and day, and even slept here, so the question of a news conference became of secondary importance. But despite this, on Friday last we gave the national press all the preliminary figures that had reached us. Collecting signatures is a difficult process, and so is its monitoring. This is the current situation for us. I will answer you frankly: At this precise moment we are not far from collecting 60,000 signatures. [passage omitted] We hope to get the 75,000 signatures legally required before the deadline.

[Correspondent] Mr. Boukhrouh, assessment of the impartiality of the administration with regard to the collection of signatures varies from one candidate to another. Will you tell us about the conditions in which this process has taken place? Were there any difficulties, problems, or facilitations?

[Boukhrouh] Actually, there were many difficulties. I will tell you how we, the PRA went about it. We were the first party to announce our candidacy, therefore, we made use of the time. Our problem is that our party has representatives in all the provinces. [passage omitted] We have a problem: How to raise the awareness of the people and be a party of the masses to which people would join in groups. This has not yet happened. One has to say the truth. So what we did technically was to appoint all our representatives throughout 47 provinces — and today we covered the 48th province, Ghardaia. [passage omitted] The administration made us waste a lot of time by asking the people to present identity cards, electoral forms, and other documents. There were also the difficulties due to the security situation. Some administration the officials are members of political parties who want to hinder the presidential elections. These are our problems, but we have fought them and have done our best.

[Correspondent] Therefore there are no clear reservations with regard to obstructions by the administration to this operation. There are perhaps difficulties.

[Boukrouh] There are difficulties, but this may be due to incompetence and the general situation which everyone knows about. No I do not have [passage indistinct]. Whenever we come across a problem we immediately get in touch with the authorities and solve it. We are always keen to find out if there are any problems by talking to people. We ask them to tell us what sort of problem they encountered and where it was. Immediately we get in touch with the authorities and solve the problem.

[Correspondent] But generally we cannot say that there is a deliberate political will to hamper the elections or to back one candidate and not the other. Is there no such thing?

[Boukhrouh] There are no obstructions as such. No, there are not.

[Correspondent] There are problems which are known to the administration [words indistinct]. Mr. Noureddine Boukrouh, the process of collecting signatures is the closest thing to a mini-referendum or opinion poll. Have you concluded results from this process that will support your optimism regarding competition, the future competition?

[Boukrouh] I said that we have experience; we have been having experience for nearly a month. We are aware of what we have and that we have a good reputation among the people. God be praised, the Renewal Party has a good image that has been built from six years of activities, and we have benefited from discussions on television, radio stations, and newspapers.

We are satisfied that we have a good image and reputation. However, reputation cannot always be translated into signatures, because people are afraid; they may say that they want to vote for us, but they cannot go and sign. We are optimistic. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] How does Noureddine Boukrouh see the role of the Independent National Commission [for Monitoring the Presidential Elections], and have you appointed any representatives in the provincial commissions?

[Boukrouh] Yes, we have a representative in this Independent National Commission. You know that yesterday the members of this commission began installing the provincial commissions. Our representative was entrusted with the southern provinces. Today he will install the representatives in the southern provinces. We believe this commission will have a heavy responsibility after 2 October. At this stage there are no issues that primarily concern the commission. This is an issue of relations with the administration. But after 2 October, the commission will oversee the elections and make sure

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that they are free from irregularities. Then, its role will be strong.

[Correspondent] Mr. Boukrouh, the discussion of the security situation is an on-going one and, according to many candidates, the security situation poses an obstacle in the election campaign process, how are you dealing with this situation?

[Boukrouh] We believe that there are great difficulties in our country, which is living in war-like [conditions]. Even in wartime people exert all efforts to get out from the war conditions and difficulties. We do acknowledge that the security situation is bad, but to overcome it elections should take place because they will give a chance, a meeting point between the people's will and whichever new men, officials [who are elected], God willing, so that the concord can become the new policy, the policy of national reconciliation.

To deal with the deterioration in the security and economic situations a cohesion between the voting bloc and the first official [the president] who comes out of the ballot box, should take place, God willing. This and the restored trust might help us get out of the crisis as soon as possible, God willing.

[Correspondent] Mr. Boukrouh, you have used a figure of speech and said in the past that a dialogue should be held as if violence did not exist, and violence must be fought as if dialogue did not exist. Does this apply to the presidential elections, i.e should there be presidential elections and an electoral campaign as if violence did not exist, and should violence be fought as if there were no elections?

[Boukrouh] Yes, I used this figure of speech when asked about the problem of dialogue. At that time there was controversy about the meaning of dialogue, and it was then that I used this figure of speech. Now we know that from a political viewpoint there must be elections, because perhaps if the people elect a new president it will be easy to get out of the crisis. We also know that there are additional measures to be taken by the state to secure the electoral operation, to protect polling stations, and reassure people a little. We know that there are incentives behind violence, so we must eliminate the reasons that make terrorists. Therefore, there is a political, intellectual action to be undertaken by the new president and the government he will be forming, a government which, we hope, will be a government of national reconciliation.

We must eliminate the causes and excuses that have prompted terrorists to resort to arms, destroy their country, and kill people. This is the way to fight terrorism, which also can be fought in a technical way [as heard]. We should fight terrorists that attack the nation or individuals with technical ways, but we should fight them also and in particular with political and intellectual means. The Algerian who has carried arms should realize that this is a dead end to him, that he should return to his homeland, engage in politics within the framework of the law, and contribute to overcoming the current difficulties.

[Correspondent] Mr. Boukrouh, when you say government of national reconciliation, do you mean the elected president of the republic should form a government of national reconciliation, and in the event of you winning these elections, would you work for the widening of the political and popular basis of power, and introduce the participation of other political trends and political parties in this government? Similarly, is somebody else is elected, would you accept taking part in such a government of national reconciliation?

[Boukrouh] For the moment, what I can speak about is that it has always been my view that we should get a new president who does not bear responsibility for the crisis, who has nothing to do with the factors of the crisis, who has not caused the crisis and has not managed it, who has not tried to tackle it, and failed. This is my frank conception. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Do you mean a new president as a person or someone who enjoys legitimacy, the legitimacy of the ballot box?

[Boukrouh] First, he must enjoy legitimacy, and also he must be new rather than old.

[Correspondent] To break with the past?

[Boukrouh] Yes, it should be so, because a new person is better than one who has been around a bit. The break with the past must be embodied, and should not remain an idea outside practice. Even the image has its importance. [passage omitted] It is for us to say that it is better to have a new president. I am entitled to say it because I put myself forward in these elections to stand for all this.

As regards the government, it seems to me that one of the first problems which the new president should tackle is to form a new government — not a government of technocrats or whatever, but a government made up of politicians.

[Correspondent] In other words a government which has a political base, a popular base.

[Boukrouh] It should have a political base and also a political message. Nobody should say that since they are in charge of a ministry they should not be interested

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in what is happening here and there; nor should they say that what happens in politics has nothing to do with the technical aspects of their job, because this is wrong. Therefore, I say that if a new president is elected he or she might be able to facilitate a rapprochement with all the existing political forces that are truly intent on finding a solution. Those who obstruct ones efforts and say that they do not recognize your legitimacy cannot possibly tell you they want to talk. Today, what matters is to give legitimacy to the new president. The issue of negotiations is no longer raised.

[Correspondent] Let us move to another question. Mr. Boukrouh, the media remain one of the important factors in providing publicity for the candidates and their policies. How do you view the work of the public and private media?

[Boukrouh] We have noticed that some newspapers — it does not matter if they are independent or state-owned — were championing a particular candidate, according to their ideological leanings. This is a known phenomenon. [passage omitted] Generally speaking, the press does not play a true media role. It will fight and struggle behind parties. I have told journalists many times that there are more than just parties behind them; that there are extremists behind them, and that they have a narrow perspective. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Many candidates have media links, i.e., with the written journals, while the Algerian Renewal Party has no such links. The question is why? The second question is: The independent national committee is supposed to organize the work of the media in order to render equal services to all candidates. Is this being done?

[Boukrouh] Yes. Within the program of this independent committee, and one of its main concerns is information and the use of the information media within the framework of the election campaign. Therefore, there will be equality in the use of the public media. As for the private media, it will remain free.

You asked me why we have no papers. It is because we were created not to represent a certain interest, such as some who advocate language, others a perception of religion, and yet another supports a political class. We emerged in order to abolish these things, to push Algerians to overcome these calamities, which led us to the current civil war and will lead us toward further calamities. This is the philosophical reason. Second, all other parties are backed by financial powers, wealthy people who support them, and this is well known. We have no wealthy people to support us. Third, there is foreign support for some people. On the other hand, our government has never discussed the question of financing political parties. There are parties with budgets that run into billions. We only work within the assistance we receive, like all other parties, for the election. We have no private source or anything else. This is not fair. However, we have the will, the ideas, and the intelligence to maintain our level of activity. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Why do you want to be president of the republic?

[Boukrouh] Because for a long time I have harbored a picture, a conception of Algeria by the end of this century. I am aware of the diseases behind the present tragedy. The real causes are not the apparent ones, like terrorism, or the cancellation of the [1991] elections. The cause of the crisis is in our minds, our mentality, our ancient history, our behavior for centuries. I have tried to present the Algerian problem, historically, in a new way. People sometimes do not understand me, sometimes I did not express myself clearly. [passage omitted] I hope I will take Algeria into a new era, an era of definitive, historic stability, a stability not only concerning terrorism, but also regarding growth, a harmonious society, sufficiency in all domains. I have a vision of moving ourselves from this tragic stage to that of a cohesive, calm, working society.

[Correspondent] Are you optimistic about the elections?

[Boukrouh] Yes, I am 100 percent optimistic. [passage omitted] I have a strong faith; if the people help us, we can win these elections, God willing.

[Correspondent] Mr. Boukrouh, as a party leader, a candidate in the presidential elections, and a participant in the various phases of the national dialogue, what would you tell the ordinary Algerian citizen in answer to his questions about the importance of these elections and about the future?

[Boukrouh] I would address the all the citizens and say that our country is experiencing enormous difficulties. Many people are being killed because we do not have legitimate institutions, and there is a wide gap between the government and the people. We must create new relations, and for the elections to materialize the people must be able to choose the people in power. A citizen should not be indifferent, thinking that the elections are merely political and that they do not affect him. He must know that he might be lost or be dead if he does not take part in this political operation. This is the case in all societies. Elections are not just a question of power. The people should realise that they have a strong role. We have stepped forward and we have done our part. Tomorrow it is the role of the people to choose and make their decision. [passage omitted]

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Independent Announces Presidential Candidacy

LD2709052895 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The list of presidential candidates is still open. Ouadi Laarousi announced his intention to run in the presidential elections, due to be held on the 16 November, during a news conference held today at the Sibous International Hotel in Annaba.

Ouadi Laarousi is an independent candidate, aged 48, married with four children, and works in an independent profession.

During the news conference, Ouadi Laarousi talked about the motives which made him announce his intention to run in the presidential elections, and he explained in broad terms his political agenda which he would announce to the Algerian nation.

Female Candidate Notes Difficulties

LD2609150695 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1130 GMT 26 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Chelbia Mahdjoubi, the only female candidate in the presidential elections, is encountering specific difficulties. She was the guest of Meriem Hiacine this morning:

[Begin Mahdjoubi recording] So far, we have not managed to change people's thinking. It is very difficult for a woman to have access to a very important post.

In addition to the way people think, there are difficulties caused by the administration. We have encountered a lot of difficulties in collecting signatures: 75,000 signatures have been collected in 25 provinces. It is very difficult. [end recording]

Security Forces Eliminate 12 'Terrorists'

LD2609194495 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement issued today by the security services said that 12 terrorists were eliminated during a number of operations in Constantine, Blida, Chlef, Boumerdes, and Mascara. A quantity of arms were also recovered.

New Bouira Governor Appointed

LD2609233995 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Djilali Arrar [name as heard] took over as the governor of Bouira today succeeding Noureddine Ben Naceur [name as heard] whose period of office has ended. The officials of the governorate held a farewell ceremony today in honor of the outgoing governor.

Egypt

Mubarak Interviewed on Taba Talks, Other Issues

BR2609141695 Paris LE FIGARO in French 26 Sep 95 p 4

[Interview with President Husni Mubarak by Charles Lambroschini and Pierre Rousselin in Cairo; date not given: "Husni Mubarak: Egypt Has Been a Major Player in the Game of Peace"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [LE FIGARO] Your efforts to support Yasir 'Arafat in his negotiations with the Israelis appear to have played a key role. Is it not you who is the real "man behind" the peace agreement that will be signed in Washington on Thursday [28 September]?

[Mubarak] Yes. Egypt has been a major player in the game of peace. Over the last few days of discussion, Yasir 'Arafat came to see me countless times. I urged him to press on, in spite of the obstacles. On at least two occasions he told me that he held out no more hopes and wanted to give up. I told him: "No, you must keep going. This problem has existed for 45 years. The only solution is to be patient."

The Israeli Government had to show its people that it was conducting the negotiations in a very tough manner. One day 'Arafat shut the door in Taba and locked himself in his room. I spoke to him on the telephone: "You will never achieve anything this way. Do not lose your nerve. Force yourself to be patient. Egypt has also gone through fairly difficult negotiations. Above all you must not withdraw. On the contrary, clench your teeth."

At the same time I asked my foreign minister to take up contact with Shim'on Peres to make sure that the Israelis did not give up either. I dispatched a messenger to Israeli Prime Minister Rabin and I myself called Israeli President Ezer Weizman

[LE FIGARO] On what specific issue did your intervention prove to be decisive?

[Mubarak] Hebron definitely posed the greatest problem. The negotiators were talking of resolving the problem by carving up the town into several pieces, but this plan was far too complicated. There was no way in which it could lead to lasting peace, which was the aim of the negotiations. I told both 'Arafat and the Israelis that by tackling the topic of Hebron in this way they risked creating insurmountable obstacles when it came to negotiating the final phase.

For the Palestinians, Hebron not only boasts religious significance; what makes the town so special is that a

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large number of the people living in Gaza, Jericho, or other towns on the West Bank originally come from Hebron. At the same time it is clear that Rabin and his Israeli negotiators were under tremendous pressure from the Israeli people. However, I repeatedly told both sides: "Where Hebron is concerned you have no other solution. You must reach a compromise."

[LE FIGARO] So can we sum up by saying that these negotiations, which were officially bipartite, in actual fact constituted a three-way discussion?

[Mubarak] We tried to work with both sides in order to fill the gap that separated them. I was convinced that we could not content ourselves to leave the problem of Hebron until later. That would have triggered off terrible reactions.

[LE FIGARO] In the long term are the 400 Jewish settlers in Hebron not doomed to move out?

[Mubarak] Either they will move out or they will agree to live under the Palestinian Authority [PA]. Unless a solution can be found which enables them to coexist with the local population.

[LE FIGARO] Do you think that 'Arafat got everything he could possibly get out of the negotiations?

[Mubarak] 'Arafat obtained the maximum. This conflict is 45 years old. So this time around he could not get everything he needs. A great many steps still have to be made before negotiations can be opened on the final phase.

[LE FIGARO] How can the extremists on both sides, in the Israeli settlements and among the Palestinian fundamentalists be prevented from sabotaging the agreement?

[Mubarak] We must insist that the negotiations continue and that the peace agreement is effectively implemented. That is the only way. Where there is a will, there is a way. By respecting the terms of the agreement, the Israeli Government and the PA will inflict a resounding defeat on their respective enemies in each camp.

[LE FIGARO] So you are convinced that terrorism cannot undermine the agreement?

[Mubarak] I am certain of it. The agreement reflects the will of the people. The people have suffered a great deal. Now they want to build up their country.

[LE FIGARO] No decision has been made regarding the Israeli settlements.

[Mubarak] The negotiations on the settlements will come in the final phase.

[LE FIGARO] And yet, to secure peace with Egypt, the Israelis had to commit themselves to abandoning their settlements in the Sinai.

[Mubarak] The situation then was completely different. The Sinai is a vast area and there were not many settlements. On the other hand, the West Bank and Gaza are highly populated areas, containing large numbers of towns.

[LE FIGARO] When you say that the continuation of the negotiations is the prerequisite for the implementation of the agreement, does this mean that the calendar must be rigorously respected? In the past this has not been the case.

[Mubarak] I hope that the Israelis will respect the planned dates. That at least would have the effect of creating a climate of confidence between the two parties. If the agreement is not correctly implemented, it will compromise the negotiations on the definitive status of the Territories.

[LE FIGARO] What solution do you envision for the problem of Jerusalem?

[Mubarak] Where Jerusalem is concerned, in my opinion it would seem difficult to opt for a division of the city. A solution must be found for East Jerusalem which is satisfactory for the faithful belonging to all three religions there: Muslims, Christians, and Jews. [LE FIGARO] Do you think that the creation of a Palestinian State is inescapable?

[Mubarak] Yitzhaq Rabin refuses to accept the idea of a Palestinian State, but the Palestinians are insisting on it. Let us leave the two parties in question to tackle this problem during the next round of negotiations. However, I believe that in the long run the Palestinians will have to have their independence.

[LE FIGARO] Do you think that 'Arafat has succeeded in containing his opposition?

[Mubarak] 'Arafat could not be asked the impossible when he arrived in Gaza (in June 1994 — LE FIGARO editor's note). He came from a long way away to a territory that had been occupied for 27 years. He had to be given the time to discover his people again and grow accustomed to the situation. Today, he feels much better than he did during the first few weeks. He is trying to instill a bit of stability into Palestinian society. When he has the full responsibility of being in power he will be able to control the situation and contain the opposition.

[LE FIGARO] Palestinian elections have been planned for March. What will happen if 'Arafat loses them to the Hamas extremists?

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[Mubarak] I do not think that Hamas will win. The majority among the population is against Hamas. Most people want peace, a job, and a stable income. They are tired of fighting. 'Arafat will win the elections.

[LE FIGARO] If Likud wins the Israeli general election next year, do you think that the agreement will be in jeopardy?

[Mubarak] The moment the agreement is signed and its implementation commences it will be very difficult to go backward. If this happened, Likud — and Israel in general — would find itself in a very difficult situation.

[LE FIGARO] Does this agreement concerning the West Bank not place King Bin-Talal Husayn in the center of the debate? The Egyptian press is accusing Jordan of seeking to sideline Egypt.

[Mubarak] I am not jealous. If King Husayn can become the main actor in the region I shall applaud him loudly. Egypt is a very large country which knows where it is going. I do not think that King Husayn is really thinking of supplanting Egypt. He is a friend. I do not want to criticize him. It is the press that is trying to create problems.

[LE FIGARO] Jordan recently took in Saddam Husayn's son-in-law who had defected. Do you think that Jordan has distanced itself from the Iraqi regime?

[Mubarak] Messages are still going to and fro between Amman and Baghdad. The Jordanian oil minister was recently in Iraq.

[LE FIGARO] Although he was an ally of Iraq during the Gulf war, today King Husayn seems to be saying that he has always been opposed to Saddam Husayn.

[Mubarak] Always? Since when? Let us change the subject. All that I can tell you is that the king told me that he had tried to give some advice to Saddam Husayn. What advice, he did not say.

[LE FIGARO] The discovery last week of communal graves in the Sinai confirmed the recent revelations made by an Israeli historian that during the Six Day War the Israeli army executed unarmed Egyptian prisoners. What compensation do you intend demanding from Israel?

[Mubarak] It was not Egypt that triggered off this whole affair. We were unaware of this atrocity. It is the Israelis who were the first to talk about it. We are asking them to open an inquiry into this crime for which, under the terms of the Geneva Convention, there will never be any proscription. The Egyptian public is indignant. The families in question will demand compensation if the crime is proven to have taken place.

[LE FIGARO] Will you demand that the Israelis responsible for the atrocity are called to justice?

[Mubarak] I do not want this business to spark off a crisis between our two countries. It will be up to the Israelis to decide whether to refer the matter to the legal authorities.

[LE FIGARO] In June you were the victim of an attempted assassination in Addis Ababa, which you have blamed on the Islamic fundamentalist regime in Sudan. Since July, France has fallen victim to a wave of attacks that would appear to be the work of Algerian fundamentalists. Do you see a link between these events?

[Mubarak] It is all interconnected. The 1993 bomb attack on the World Trade Center in New York, the events in Algeria, what is happening in France — all this is coming from the same source, namely groups of people supposedly "inspired" by their religion, but who in actual fact have opted to act illegally. It is shameful to mix them up with what Islam is really all about: a faith characterized by peace and cooperation between peoples. These individuals are outlaws who live in another world. We have evidence showing that Sudan was involved in the assassination attempt in Addis Ababa. The regime in Khartoum had contacts with illegal organizations in Egypt, Libya, Algeria, and Morocco. Sudan has also taken in people who subsequently went to France. These organizations have centers in Germany and Great Britain.

[LE FIGARO] Recently there were demonstrations in Sudan, with people out on the streets in Khartoum. Are you ready to support this newly emergent opposition?

[Mubarak] The present regime must go. It is not taking care of the well-being of its people, who are suffering terribly from the bad economic situation. We have 4 or 5 million Sudanese in Egypt and we allow them to work without a permit.

[LE FIGARO] If Sudan is a terrorist state, are you in favor of international action being taken against Khartoum?

[Mubarak] We can take care of things ourselves. We are capable of doing a great deal to the Sudanese regime if the international community does not react.

[LE FIGARO] Egypt by itself?

[Mubarak] Together with other countries in the region.

[LE FIGARO] In Algeria is the regime headed by President Liamine Zeroual on the right road?

[Mubarak] I think so. President Zeroual is a very good man. He has opted for a good solution.

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[LE FIGARO] Do you think he will end up winning the war against the armed Islamists?

[Mubarak] It will take time, but ultimately he will prevail. He has to, because if the extremists succeeded in seizing power the country would very swiftly descend into chaos. Everyone would be at each other's throats.

[LE FIGARO] Some time ago the United States was in favor of a dialogue between the regime in Algeria and the moderate Islamists. Do you support this approach?

[Mubarak] Who are the moderates? Nobody has ever been able to tell me. In Egypt President al-Sadat launched a dialogue with the Muslim Brotherhood [MB] and he gave them an important role to play. When I arrived in power, I tried to launch discussions with them until they started to use machine pistols. They profited from this to strengthen themselves, and when they thought they were strong enough, they sought to destabilize the country.

[LE FIGARO] You decided to bring 49 militant members belonging to the MB to justice. An organization that is illegal, but which your government has so far tolerated. Why have you hardened your approach now?

[Mubarak] Because they were violating the law by giving themselves over to subversive activities that were discovered by our security forces, so it was normal that they be brought to justice. I opted for a military tribunal because the regular courts are overloaded. Faced with the regular courts, sentencing such cases normally takes five to six years. During this period others would be encouraged to take up arms. Faced with a military tribunal, sentencing will take merely a few months.

[LE FIGARO] Do you have evidence of a direct link between the 49 members of the MB and the armed groups?

[Mubarak] Of course. Violence runs high among the extremists. That is how it has been since 1929. Al-Nasir took very firm measures against them during the 1950's and 1960's. President al-Sadat tried to adopt a conciliatory attitude, but they ended up assassinating him.

[LE FIGARO] Where policing is concerned, you now seem to be on top of the situation, for terrorism has clearly diminished. However, at the ideological level you are faced with the growing islamization of Egyptian society.

[Mubarak] The situation is not as grave as you make out. A tremendous propaganda effort is being made which is financed by foreign sources. However, this campaign is having a limited effect, because most Egyptians are good Muslims, so they are against violence. The terrorists striking in Egypt, France, or elsewhere have no idea what our religion is all about. They are using the Koran to deceive the people, but they do not apply any of the principles of the religious law.

[LE FIGARO] Nonetheless, seen from outside, it seems abnormal that in a modern country Nasser Abu Zaid, a university professor, can be forced to divorce for reasons linked to apostasy.

[Mubarak] This is a very bizarre case, which is still subject to an appeal. I cannot express any opinion on it because never since arriving in power have I issued any instructions to a judge. In Egypt the judicial system is independent.

[LE FIGARO] Nonetheless, intellectuals have become targets. Terrorists seriously injured Naghib Mahfouz, a winner of the Nobel Prize for literature, and killed another writer, Farag Foda. Is this not an indication that Egypt risks becoming like Iran, a religious state?

[Mubarak] No. Egypt will not follow the Iranian model. Right through history, ever since the pharaohs, this country has always had a strong central authority. For centuries and centuries, Egyptians have always traditionally supported their government, no matter what happened. When Naghib Mahfouz was attacked, everyone criticized me, everyone told me to "go on, do something." What did you want me to do? Kill them all? That is why I decided to bring the accused to trial before a military tribunal. However, it is too easy to condemn Egypt: Even if Salman Rushdie stays in London he is still at risk due to the fatwa decreed against him by the Iranians. Egypt is not a dangerous country, whereas France today might seem extremely dangerous.

[LE FIGARO] The Islamists are justifying their fight in terms of the corruption among the ruling elite and the growing divide between the rich and the poor.

[Mubarak] Corruption is a general phenomenon. We can see it in France, Germany, Great Britain, and Italy. It is a part of human nature. Here the government would be to blame if it tried to cover up incidences of corruption. On the contrary, we have taken cases to court.

[LE FIGARO] But are social problems not a breeding ground for terrorism? The Islamists persist in claiming that even if you impose order, by force, you will have lost the confidence of the man in the street.

[Mubarak] That is garbage. Nobody can deny that progress has been made since I rose to power in 1981. There were 43 million inhabitants who had problems feeding and housing themselves. Today our population numbers 60 million people. Everyone is well fed and we even have enough to export some rice and vegetables.

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Believe me, I have not lost the confidence of the people. I talk to the man in the street. When I convened the military tribunal it was not merely a government decision that I was implementing. I was also expressing the will of a large number of people.

Newspaper Hails Mubarak's Contribution to Peace

NC2709070295 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0335 GMT 27 Sep 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Under the headline "The Dream of Peace is no Longer Farfetched," AL-AKHBAR says: The world's attention is riveted on Washington, which will witness an historic event. Just a few years ago this historic event was a farfetched dream but for the will and resolve of great Arab Leader Mubarak, who does not know the word "impossible" in the world of politics.

The newspaper stresses that the success of the Taba talks, which has opened the way for the signing of the second Palestinian-Israeli agreement, is not the end of the road in the peace process. It gives a good measure of hope that it will provide strong momentum for resolving the other disputes standing in the way of real peace.

The newspaper expresses the hope that the Summit meeting which will be held at the White House during the signing ceremony of the new agreement between 'Arafat and Rabin will give a new and strong impetus for completing the peace process by making all efforts to end the unresolved conflict between Syria and Israel over full Israeli withdrawal from the Syrian Golan Heights.

The newspaper notes that Israel's stand on its problems with Syria and Lebanon will be the touchstone of its desire for real, and not false, peace with the whole Arab world.

Islamic Group Threatens Croatia With 'Retaliation'

MM2609152995 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 26 Sep 95 pp 1, 6

[Report by Muhammad Salah: "Islamic Group: Al-Qasimi Still in Croatia; His Extradition to Egypt Would Not Pass Without Retaliation"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo — The Islamic Group in Egypt has stressed that its spokesman, Engineer Tal'at Fu'ad Qasim, whom Croatian authorities arrested on 13 September while he was trying to enter Bosnia, is still in and has not left Croatia.

It warned that his extradition to Egypt "would not pass without suitable retaliation." The Group issued a statement yesterday, of which AL-HAYAH has obtained a copy, saying: "In a strange and unexpected step over 10 days ago the Croatian authorities arrested the preacher Engineer Tal'at Fu'ad Qasim in the Croatian capital, Zagreb, and detained him there. The Islamic group and numerous human rights organizations expressed their utmost indignation at the Croatian authorities' decision to embark on that illegal measure."

The statement said that al-Qasim "was on his way to support the Bosnian cause. He entered Croatian territory legally, as he obtained an entry visa from the Croatian Embassy in Brussels. And he traveled on Croatian Airlines. He had on him a Danish travel document as a political refugee. He went there merely to support Bosnia, for which the world has announced its support."

The statement stressed that "al-Qasim's arrival in Zagreb to support Bosnia is not a punishable crime." It added that "the Islamic Group has been following the matter with utmost interest over the past period, giving political and humanitarian efforts a chance to secure the preacher's release. But it is surprised by the Croatian authorities' announcement that he has left its territory for an unknown destination — which has aroused our suspicion." The statement said that "the Group has corroborated information that Engineer Tal'at Fu'ad Qasim is still being held by the Croatian authorities." The statement urged the Zagreb government "to immediately announce the preacher's whereabouts and to work to return him immediately to Denmark, where he lives with his family and five children, the eldest of whom is eight." The statement urged the Croatian authorities "to take responsibility for al-Qasim." And it warned them "of the consequences of extraditing him to the Egyptian authorities or any other quarter he does not wish to go to." The statement said that the statement issued earlier by the "Islamic League" was not issued by the Islamic Group, pointing out that the Group's official statements are issued by it.

The statement concluded by saying that "the Islamic Group stresses that extraditing Tal'at Fu'ad Qasim to the Egyptian Government or any other government would be an ugly crime which would not pass unpunished. And in this context it urges the Croatian Government to respect human rights and to spare its country and citizens a battle to which they are not a party."

Economy To Do Without Foreign Aid in 3-4 Years

NC2609212195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2000 GMT 26 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 26 Sep (MENA) — Dr. Yusuf Butrus Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for international cooperation, has said that the Egyptian

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economy can do without foreign aid completely within three to four years.

He said in an interview with the French-language AL-AHRAM HEBDO in its issue tomorrow that the Egyptian economy can use domestic savings and investments to provide the necessary financial resources to make up for foreign aid during this period.

Libya

Commentary: PLO 'Fooled' in Deal With Israel

LD2609174195 Tripoli JANA in English 0834 GMT 26 Sep 95

[Unattributed commentary: "A Step of Further Concessions"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli, Al Fatih 26 [September 26], Jamahiriya News Agency — In a further step making more concessions for the enemies of the Arab nation and forsaking the Palestinian people's rights, and in further decline in the abyss of the immaginery so-called peace. [sentence as received]

News reports indicated that the P.L.O. signed a deal with the Israeli enemy on the so-called second phase of self-rule authority extension.

Through this step the abyss, where the submissive have fallen, has extended as it was a big lie to an anticipate the so-called peace with the enemies of the Arab nation who are consolidating their occupation of Palestine through infinite Western and American support.

The Israeli occupiers persist in practicing various forms of massacres, killing, torture and playing havoc over the Arab Palestinian land, whereas millions of Palestinians live in the diaspora or in make-shift camps.

The announcement of this step confirms, further more, that those who were implicated in the saga of submission and humiliation are being fooled. The signing of this deal comes at a time when the revolutionaries of the Palestinian wrath generation are escalating their daring confrontation for the soldiers of the Israeli occupation, to reaffirm the resolve of the Palestinian people in rejecting the saga of submission and humiliation and the vital need to continue struggle for the liberation of Palestine.

Palestinians' Situation Exposes Taba's 'Fraudulence'

LD2609175595 Tripoli JANA in English 1440 GMT 26 Sep 95

[Unattributed commentary: "Falsehood of Fradulent Deals Exposed"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Paris, Al Fatih 26 [September 26], Jamahariya News Agency — Press reports published in Paris confirmed that the Great Jamahariyah's call for the return of Palestinians from the diaspora to their homeland has exposed the fradulence of the submissive deals that were imposed on Palestinian Arabs. The reports indicated that the Palestinians could not enter Palestine and they stopped at it occupied border gates by the occupation soldiers and the self-rule authority's police.

The reports called for the support of the Libyan-Arab people to enable them to confront the unfair sanctions imposed by Western states for reasons that are linked with the control of Arab oil more than they are linked to what they say about the so-called Lockerbie case.

The reports added that if the Arabs were honest with themselves in their positions then they have to act towards the lifting of the unfair sanctions imposed on the Libyan Arab people by a collective resolution that America could not block.

Mauritania

Algerian Prime Minister Cited on Visit

LD2509144895 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 1300 GMT 25 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Algerian Prime Minister] Mokdad Sifi was received yesterday by his excellency the president of republic, Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya. [passage omitted]

Following the meeting, Algerian Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi gave a statement to the national press in which he said that he was honored to be received by his excellency the president, that the talks dealt with numerous spheres of common interest, relations between Mauritania and Algeria, [ways of] strengthening them in the future, and assessing the level they have reached.

Mokdad Sifi added that he discussed with his excellency the president issues of concern to the Arab Maghreb Union and other joint issues of importance to Arab-African cooperation.

Last night there was an extended joint working meeting between the two sides led by Mokdad Sifi and Mauritanian Prime Minister Sidi Mohamed Ould Boubaker. [passage omitted]

Morocco

Prince Opens Extension to Communications Station

LD2609140795 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 26 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] At (Souhoul) in Sale province this morning His Royal Highness Crown

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Prince Sidi Mohamed presided over the inauguration of the extension to the Mohamed V satellite communications station and the launching of the national fiber optics program. [passage omitted]

The Mohamed V complex for satellite communications comprises five stations. These are: first, the ground station which insures internal communications; second, the Arabsat ground station which connects Morocco with Arab states and receives radio and television transmissions; third, the Amsat ground station for communications with South America and Europe; fourth, the Eutelsat ground station which has the aim of covering communications between Morocco, Europe, the Middle East, and the Mediterranean; fifth, the monitoring station which aims at ensuring technical monitoring through extremely advanced technical equipment in addition to a mobile station which undertakes coverage of international conferences convened in Morocco such as the GATT, Islamic, North African, and Middle East economic conferences hosted by our country.

The national fiber optics program is aimed at modernizing the Moroccan communications structure, focussing on advanced technology from which public and private enterprises can benefit and which will connect our country with various parts of the world swiftly and efficiently.

***Paper Criticizes Apparent Censorship Incident**

95AF0116B Rabat AL-ITTIHAD AL-ISHTIRAKI in Arabic 5 Jun 95 p 5

[Unattributed article: "The Government Retreats From Gains in the Media Field"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the interview broadcast on Moroccan television, the minister of transportation said that the ministry he runs cannot retreat from the rights gained by the railroad workers and that the origin of the dispute revolved around the demands made by workers in this sector, whose response requires providing financial credits the National Railroad Office does not have at the present time.

If the minister, Mr. Imskan, was in the government, then he in his former opinion, is automatically expressing the philosophy of the executive authority and his view of existing social conflicts in our country. According to his words, the Moroccan Government cannot retreat from the rights won by the Moroccan people, the gains achieved will be retained by the people, and the current dispute is over the demands put on the table, which are being negotiated.

It appears that it is not easy to talk with those who deny the facts, which are still alive, and if a person denies your material existence when you are standing right in front of him and talking to him, then what must you do to prove your existence to him? We will not mention the total and absolute neglect with which since the early 1980's the Moroccan Government's social side has responded to the recommendations of international financial institutions, nor the state of the education, health, and housing sectors and all the utilities in which the Moroccan people had many gains they achieved after independence, and how these were eliminated one after the other.

We will not get into a sterile debate with the minister of transportation over the holiday allowance demanded by railroad workers, over whether it was actually an allowance and hence a gain, or a loan that must be paid back to management; that is, the government, through the minister, turned to the public via television to say that it will not retreat from the gains and said what pleased them and that it was waiting for the citizens to ratify it. We note that while our government was seeking to convince its audience that it was not putting an end to the gains, on precisely this day it engaged in incomparable coarseness by retreating from a significant media gain achieved by the people of Morocco in the current legislative term.

Moroccan radio and television had been broadcasting direct transmission of the parliament's activities, and this media transmission became a right won for the Moroccans, who began to enjoy it and react to it. Then suddenly, without prior warning, this right was taken away with the end of live transmission of the parliament's activities while the president of the Socialist Union's bloc was commenting on a point of procedure. The entire people of Morocco stood against the government's end to this acquired right in the field of media, and everyone confirms the retreat of the executive authority from what it had committed itself to before the whole public regarding the direct transmission of the parliament's activities.

Of course, this contradicts what Mr. Imskan said on television, as the government, which retreated from an acquired right in the media field and may well retreat from it altogether, may deduce that it will do away with whatever other gains of the Moroccan people it pleases. There are no specific curbs regulating its behavior. It will not benefit it, just as it will not benefit the people in any way, by what it said on television. Its deeds constantly contradict its words, especially its sweet and honeyed words.

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***Media Coverage of Officials Viewed as Excessive**

95AF0116D Rabat AL-ITTIHAD AL-ISHTIRAKI in Arabic 5 Jun 95 p 6

[Article by Khaled al-Raji: "The Reasons Officials Are Eager To Appear on Television"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The presence of cameras during the travels of cabinet ministers, government men, and senior officials has become a rite they cannot do without. Whenever there is a dedication or a cornerstone is laid, even when such men make inspection visits to the installations they oversee, it is impossible for the senior officials of our country to take a single step unless they are accompanied by television cameras to broadcast their movements to citizens. If we in Morocco have an issue over which there is agreement among senior officials in view of the entire country, then our ministers and members of the ruling clique are eager to be accompanied by cameras. They go out, careful that their neckties are straight, and they pretend to be serious and dignified when they have an audience.

One might note that the presence of cameras and their transmission of the ministers' activities on the small screen has become, through repetition, a routine matter which does not excite or even interest citizens. As soon as the television shows some member of the government, the viewer rushes either to turn off the television or to switch to another channel. Naturally no one from Tantan, for example, takes any pleasure in what a minister in the city of Oujda is doing, laying a cornerstone of a school or clinic or housing project. So why will he sit up straight in front of the television to follow a minister launching a project that has nothing to do with him and from which he will not benefit?

It is farfetched for ministers and senior officials to imagine that television viewers sit in front of the tube with the sole objective of seeing their gorgeous faces and following, in excruciating detail, every one of their actions and movements, them and their entourages, as they dedicate what they call development projects. They understand very clearly that every citizen has daily cares and ongoing concerns too great to allow him to stay interested in consuming television segments containing propaganda for individuals before offering any news of use or benefit to society. The problem becomes more profound when we call to mind that the comparison among institutions, whether government or parliament, or televisions, is something permitted to all thanks to the communications revolution.

Moroccans who watch Western television programs see that in these advanced countries, productive movement proceeds at the speed of light with giant economic and social projects achieved at the rate of thousands per day, without the governments of those countries exploiting them in the sense that they are put to media use to propagandize and polish the image of the ministers and senior officials. How can they agree to watch a television statement with coverage of some minor activity of one or more of our ministers? What is noteworthy is that many projects accompanied by so much media attention and the limelight, with people crowding to attend the placing of cornerstones, usually never see the light of day, but rather remain as they are, as they were left by their excellencies the ministers the minute the cornerstones were in place.

In our country there has been a perversion of the intention of the slogan "Media in the service of development," and with the disappearance under this headline, television, radio, and all our official and semiofficial media have been transformed into services for the polishing of the images of officials and members of the government. So if the slogan "Media in the service of development" means that the media is an instrument in the hands of the people and in its service and is a voice bent on serving the citizens' will and the justice, democracy, equality, and sharing of national bounty they aspire to, in our country it has strayed completely from its goal and turned into the opposite of what the people want. It has led to the opposite of the task it should have carried out. Our media has become a means for misguiding propaganda, rumors, and waste. Doubt lingers and lack of confidence is sowed in the citizens' mind, and thus an obstacle to development has been created.

Before any one of our senior official goes out to launch a particular project, he first makes sure that television cameras are present to cover his movements, and while preparing to go out on any mission, among the first measures he takes very carefully is to telephone the relevant ministry to make sure that the television is ready to cover the activity he is setting out to perform.

It is a certainty that if any of our senior officials knew that the time of his departure made it impossible to be broadcasted and for the transmission of his presiding over some achievement, laying a cornerstone, or inspecting some projects to be done, he would not hesitate to postpone his departure to a time when the television cameras would be ready to cover his activity. The presence of television during the business of our ministers and senior officials has become an absolute necessity for them; indeed it is almost a drug to which they are addicted. Hence they cannot give it up on any grounds at all.

If it happened, and an official went out on a certain mission unaccompanied by the required coverage, then

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there can be no argument over whether it is traceable to indifference or disdain for the free spotlight of the media; it is merely a case of a misunderstanding between him and the television authorities. Undoubtedly feuds will erupt between his ministry and those responsible for the communications sector, all because his actions were not covered on television. In our country, the television has become an instrument for following the activities of ministers, especially the lucky ones among them.

To what can we attribute the keenness of the members of government for television cameras to transmit their activities and movements to the public? What are the real, concealed motives behind this government behavior? Is it a desire for the audience to be informed about, and appreciate, the government's efforts in the development field, as they say? Does the constant television coverage of the ministers' activities really represent a rise in the standard of development reflected in the prosperity, security, and stability of our citizens' lives?

According to the confinement citizens suffer from in terms of the standard of economic development in their country, with the constantly rising costs of living, and given the skyrocketing housing and unemployment crises and the daily more obstructed future, the public feels that the ministers and officials, in their constant presence on the television screen, are not dedicating development projects or indeed working at all. They are merely getting their image before the public. The important thing for them is not the work or production but the appearance of work. The true objective of their actions is not what will yield some return; it is the television coverage of those actions that interests them, so therefore they are eager first of all for the presence of television cameras before going out to dedicate what they call beneficial and developmental projects.

***Lack of Basic Services in Bouzniqa Reported**

95AF0116C Rabat AL-ITTIHAD AL-ISHTIRAKI in Arabic 5 Jun 95 p 3

[Unattributed article: "Between Rabat and Casablanca, People Are Dying of Thirst"]

[FBIS Translated Text] After presenting the disgraceful living conditions of citizens by both the minister of agriculture and agricultural investment and the minister of public works, and through meetings with numerous officials in the water resource, water drilling, and public works sectors, Brother Ahmed al-Zaydi, the deputy from Bouzniqa, described the miserable status of the coastal strip stretching from Bouzniqa to east of Casablanca, where thousands of citizens live in miserable conditions in the biggest agglomerations of tin shacks, among them collections that look like graveyards. This is also the case with the circles of Makri and Sidi Abbed with the community of Beni Yekhlef, Awlad Momen (al-Dawwar al-Jadid), with the community of Sidi Moussa al-Medjoub, the community of al-Mansouriya, and the community of Sidi Moussa Ben-'Ali and Awlad Zayyan and Fadlat. The territory of most of the housing agglomerations of these communities, especially the first, have been encroached upon by water channels heading for the big cities, but the residents have reached a point of despair of ever getting a drop of drinking water just for themselves (God only knows the state their livestock are in). So some of the citizens must walk 10-15 km to bring 5 liters of water (as in the case of Sidi Moussa Ben-'Ali) while others wait for more than 12 hours for their turn to obtain a small amount of water, as is the case in Sidi Abbed, while even this is not possible in reinforced concrete populated sections such as 'Ayn Taki, al-Hajba, and 'Ayn Bouchti, where the canal is just a few dozen meters away. Here the question arises: Is this not a provocation to the citizens, with water channels crossing peoples' land when they cannot find a drop of water to quench their thirst? Our brother Ahmed al-Zaydi adds that if it is understood that we as Moroccans are all enduring the crisis of the drought and showing national solidarity so that our country might survive this crisis, especially in remote areas, then it is not at all acceptable in a region where citizens can see water flowing by them to water the lawns of villas and huge estates, while simple citizens have not even a mouthful of water. This is seen as a provocation to citizens' feelings and their ability to endure.

There are—in addition to the circles adjacent to the water channels—areas in the Bouzniqa suffering from water loss due to the lack of a groundwater reservoir, as is the case in the community of Sidi Moussa Ben-'Ali (al-Qawasmah, Lamgharat, Awlad Dazi, al-Fadlat, Beni Mughith, al-Souissin, and Awlad Sisi 'Azouz). Here we might bring up the problem of rationalizing the aid given to the desert. The prevalent thought, our brother the deputy adds, is still based on regions such as this one, and to the greatest extent green regions where there is sufficient water, and everyone has forgotten that these regions today suffer from thirst, perhaps more than some desert regions.

However, the lack of facilities and infrastructure on one hand and the arbitrary exploitation of water holes (wells) on the other hand and the rationalized nondistribution of water resources all gives a free hand, and this region has today become disaster-struck, even though it was a goal to stay far from regions of the water catastrophe. This, however, is a fact of life.

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Over a year ago we sounded the alarm about this situation, our brother Ahmed al-Zaydi adds, and the previous minister of public works promised us to provide the circles adjacent to the major channel, up to the distance of two kilometers. This problem was not kept, except in the case of one channel, of Nafoura Duwwar al-Shatbiya in the community of al-Mansouriya. Shall we wait for the rest?

Or shall we put this woeful situation before the deputy of the Socialist Union so the officials can examine it and so our brother deputy can receive renewed promises of a solution to these problems as soon as possible? In the meantime, we are hopeful that the promises will be kept.

Sudan

Al-Bashir, China's President Discuss Relations

EA2609212295 Omdurman Sudan Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President 'Umar al-Bashir of Sudan and the Chinese president Jiang Zemin yesterday at the Great People's Hall held a joint session of bilateral talks that dwelt with all issues of mutual concern. The two stressed that they would endeavor to promote their bilateral relations to greater heights.

Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir stressed Sudan's keenness to cooperate with China in all political, economic and cultural fields. He also commended the two countries' reciprocal coordination and support in international forums. He pointed out that the Chinese economy had grown rapidly in recent years, adding that both countries enjoyed unique economic advantages and capacities. Both countries aspire to increased cooperation between each other in all fields, he said.

For his part the Chinese president, Jiang Zemin, expressed his country's satisfaction at the growing Sino-Sudanese relations and their genuine desire to promote bilateral relations, increase economic exchanges, consultations and cooperation in order to strengthen bilateral ties in all fields. He pointed out that Sudan and China, with traditional ties of friendship, had cooperated effectively in all fields, and had supported each other in international forums and issues since they established diplomatic relations in 1959.

Jiang added that the Chinese Government takes a positive stand on promoting economic and commercial cooperation with Sudan. He praised Sudan's firm stand regarding a number of issues. He called on nations to respect each other and not to impose their particular ideologies and values on others, and not to interfere in the internal affairs of others.

Meanwhile, in another meeting the two presidents yesterday witnessed the signing of two documents, one of them concerning a low-interest government loan and the second on an exchange of memorandums on goods provided by China to Sudan for free.

In a press conference he held in China, Lt. Gen. 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir announced Sudan's firm adherence to China's territorial integrity and its opposition to the attempts to include Taiwan in the United Nations, in view of the fact that Taiwan is part of Chinese territory.

Demonstrations Against Regime Held in 'Atbarah

NC2609171895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1630 GMT 26 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 26 Sep (MENA)—Sudanese opposition sources in Cairo report that the city of 'Atbarah, the largest industrial city in northern Sudan, was the scene of huge demonstrations in the past two days. They were demanding the overthrow of the [National] Islamic Front [NIF] regime in Sudan. The sources say demonstrators and students had violent clashes with security forces in the city. They added that large numbers of demonstrators were wounded and arrested.

Moreover, the Sudanese opposition sources say fierce clashes occurred between students belonging to the opposition National Grouping and the Islamic Front students, supported by the al-Turabi front's militia and security forces, at the Umm Durman private university. The sources add that the clashes broke out in the evening of the day before yesterday and lasted until yesterday morning. The Sudanese Ummah Party has denounced these oppressive measures, asserting that they will not weaken the resolve of all sectors of the Sudanese people.

In a statement released today, the party appeals to all friendly and brotherly states, mass media, and human rights organizations to focus their attention on the struggle of this defenseless people until they reach their goals.

Opposition Sources Deny al-Bashir-al-Turabi Split

NC2709090595 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 18 Sep 95 pp 1, 17

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London—Several Sudanese sources have denied foreign newspapers' reports that Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, leader of the National Islamic Front [NIF], has called on his supporters to carry arms in preparation for a bloody showdown with the army.

Al-Mubarak al-Mahdi, representative of the Sudanese Ummah Party in London, said the leaking of such reports to the world press is an another attempt by the

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NIF to delude Western powers into believing that the military men have begun to "marginalize" the role of al-Turabi, who is considered the man responsible for Sudan's policy.

Al-Mahdi explained that al-Turabi has been keeping a low profile in the past few weeks and has been promoting the role of the military men to enable President 'Umar al-Bashir to cushion international, African, and Arab indignation over the assassination attempt against Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

Al-Mahdi said this tactic is not new. During the first days of the 1989 military coup, al-Turabi entered prison for six months, giving Foreign Minister 'Ali 'Uthman Taha, a graduate of the Military Academy in the same class with al-Bashir, a free rein to make the coup palpable to international and Arab quarters. In the event the coup failed, al-Turabi would have denounced it, claiming he and others has been victims of the coup.

Al-Mahdi explained that al-Turabi admitted this tactic at a public seminar held in London in 1993. Al-Turabi then said that the NIF adopted the "taqiyah" system [a principle of dissimulation of one's religious beliefs in order to avoid persecution or imminent harm] to conceal the identity of the regime.

Sources of the Sudanese opposition parties in London said it is unlikely that al-Bashir will risk a conflict with al-Turabi and his supporters because al-Bashir does not have any popular or military base on which to rely in a conflict of this sort. The sources added that the security services and the Popular Defense Forces are under the virtual control of the NIF. As for the army, it has seen dramatic changes represented by the dismissal of thousands of soldiers and officers and their replacement by NIF elements. To make these changes, the various army units have cut short the training period to six months for NIF supporters, mainly school students, to graduate as army officers. [passage omitted]

35 Students Released After Signing Agreement

AB2609181995 Paris AFP in French 1032 GMT 26 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 26 Sep (AFP) — Thirty-five students, who were detained for participating in recent anti-government demonstrations, have been released after signing a one-year undertaking to refrain from demonstrations, the government press reported today.

The AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH daily quoted State Attorney Amir Mohammad Ibrahim as saying that the public prosecutor's department had decided to release these students following investigations but on condition that they signed the said undertaking. One of the students, whose identity was not revealed, will go on trial in two days' time for carrying a pistol during the demonstrations, Mr. Ibrahim stated.

On Thursday [21 September], the Sudanese authorities had freed 22 other students arrested during the demonstrations and charged with disturbing public order. The charge is liable to six to 12 months imprisonment and may be accompanied by a fine or flogging. According to the official toll, three people died and 58 were injured during these demonstrations which occurred two weeks ago but the opposition claimed there were six deaths. The Sudanese Human Rights Organization reported that nearly 500 persons were arrested.

Minister Criticizes Egypt on Planned Conference

EA2609165295 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 26 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. Mahdi Ibrahim, the minister of state at the office of president of the Republic, has stressed Sudan's interest in the unity of the Arab and Islamic nation and the African continent. He confirmed Sudan's determination to promote sound neighborly relations based on the principle of mutual cooperation and noninterference in the sovereignty of other states.

His excellency described the conference, which the so-called opposition intends to organize in the Egyptian capital, Cairo, under the patronage of the Egyptian regime, as the best evidence that the ruling regime in Egypt is keen to protect Zionist and colonialist interests in the region, which aim, above all, to break the ranks of the Arab and Islamic nation.

Al-Bashir To Visit Vietnam, Discuss Cooperation

EA2609205995 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 26 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The president of the Republic, staff Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, will make an official visit to the socialist Republic of Vietnam from 29 September to 1 October in response to an invitation from his excellency the president of the Republic of Vietnam.

Speaking at the Foreign Ministry's regular press briefing today, the first undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry, Awad Karim Fadlallah, announced that the visit is aimed at promoting bilateral cooperation in economic, political, cultural, technical and scientific fields. He said the visit was important, given that it was the first of its kind to be made by a Sudanese president to Vietnam.

His excellency pointed out Sudan's support for the Vietcong struggle to liberate and unite the country. He referred to the two countries' common views and stands on many international issues. He discussed Vietnam's support for Sudan in the face of the pressures, unjust

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campaigns and the attempts to accuse it of terrorism and human rights violations which are all aimed at Sudan's policy of self-reliance.

The first undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry said that relations between Sudan and Vietnam are expected to grow remarkably in all areas as a result of this visit. He said Lt. Gen. al-Bashir will conduct talks with the Vietnamese president on economic, technical, scientific and cultural fields during the visit. He said Sudan had a nonresident diplomat in Vietnam. [passage omitted]

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Qatar

King Fahd's Adviser Delivers Message to Amir

LD2509201995 Riyadh SPA in English 1909 GMT 25 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Doha, Sept 25, SPA — Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz has sent a letter to Qatari Amir Shaykh Bin-Hamad Khalifah Al Thani on bilateral relations between the two sisterly Arab Gulf states.

The letter was delivered to Shaykh Hamad by King Fahd's adviser Ibrahim al-'Anqari during an audience here today.

The audience was attended by Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Shaykh Mohammad Bin-Khalid Al Thani and the Saudi Ambassador to Doha 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Shibayli.

Al-'Anqari arrived in Doha earlier in the day and was welcomed at the airport by Shaykh Mohammad.

United Arab Emirates

Envoy Brings Letter to Zayid From King Fahd

JN2609185295 Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates Radio Network in Arabic 0930 GMT 26 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin- Zayid Al Nuhayyan, heir apparent of Abu Dhabi and deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces, received in his office at noon today His Excellency 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Khuwaytir, minister of state in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Zayid received a letter addressed to the president, His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin- Sultan Al Nuhayyan, from his brother, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Su'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques and king of sisterly Saudi Arabia.

The EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY learned the letter deals with brotherly bilateral relations and matters of mutual concern within the framework of continuous consultation and cooperation between the countries aimed at promoting the Gulf Cooperation Council in the interest of the people.

During the meeting, they reviewed brotherly relations between the United Arab Emirates and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and ways to develop and promote them in the various fields, in addition to other issues of mutual concern. [passage omitted]

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U.S., Allies Reportedly Used 'Dangerous' Chemical

NC2609062995 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 22 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Iraq has said the allies used a dangerous chemical substance, (Telhotysene), against Iraq during the Persian Gulf war. The Iraqi delegation at the United Nations published a booklet entitled "The Impact of the War and of the Sanctions on Iraq's Environment," which states that the use of this substance by the United States and its allies has had long-term effects on the Iraqi environment and people.

Christopher's Comments on Sanctions Criticized

JN2709101795 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0910 GMT 27 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 27 Sep (INA) — BABIL criticizes Secretary of State Warren Christopher's call for continuing the unjust siege imposed on Iraq.

In its editorial today, the newspaper says that when Christopher emphasized the U.S. position on continuing the siege on Iraq in his speech at the UN General Assembly yesterday, he was expressing the policy of hatred against our people that the U.S. Administration pursues.

It refuted what the U.S. secretary of state said about Iraq hiding dangerous information about bacterial weapons that has recently been revealed, and his call for casting doubt on Iraq's credibility. The newspaper says Christopher ignored the one who was responsible for hiding the information and the reasons for that.

It emphasizes that Christopher is overlooking all forms of cooperation Iraq gave to the Special Commission, which admitted, and continues to admit, this cooperation. He is also ignoring the amount of information Iraq presented when it was given the opportunity, which proves its sincere intentions to continue its cooperation with the Security Council.

BABIL says that if any country other than Iraq had been exposed to brutal aggression with various kinds of sophisticated weapons, it would not have hesitated to use everything possible to stop the aggression.

The paper stresses that Christopher cannot consider such a logical analysis because his administration's hatred and its eagerness to control the resources of the region and to support the Zionist entity blind his eyes and heart.

The newspaper says that in spite of all U.S. attempts, Iraq's decision to continue serious cooperation with the Security Council and the Special Commission will surely corner Christopher's administration when the time comes for implementation of Resolution 687.

Baghdad Says Airspace Violations Pose 'Threat'

JN2609185995 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1030 GMT 26 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 26 Sep (INA)—Iraq informed the Arab League that U.S., British, and French aircraft continued to violate Iraqi airspace from their bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, and said this poses a serious threat to Iraq's security, sovereignty, and national unity.

In a letter delivered to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid by Iraq's permanent representative to the Arab League, Iraq said these aircraft continued to violate Iraqi airspace from their bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and carried out 726 hostile sorties from 11 to 20 September.

The Iraqi permanent representative requested the Arab League inform all Arab countries about these regrettable facts.

Former Newspaper Owner Announces Candidacy

MM2709102495 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 27 Sep 95 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Iraqi Journalist Announces Candidacy for Presidential Election"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — Iraqi journalist al-Hajj Yunus al-Ta'i has announced his candidacy for the Iraqi presidential election in the referendum that the Iraqi authorities have decided to conduct on 15 October. Iraqi President Saddam Husayn is the only candidate in this referendum.

Al-Ta'i said in a message that AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has received that he had informed the Iraqi Embassy in Amman of his candidacy by cable, "in line with the official media orientations claiming the adoption of political democracy and party pluralism."

Al-Ta'i pointed out that between 1958 and 1963 he was the owner of AL—THAWRAH newspaper, which is still published in Baghdad; and that he was one of the aides of 'Abd-al-Karim Qasim, founder of the Iraqi Republic, and his deputy. In his cable he asked that the presidency, the National Assembly, and the Ministry of Justice be notified of his candidacy.

Pointing out that he is now temporarily based in Damascus, he promised to publish his election program soon.

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Knesset Vote on Taba Accord Set for 10 Oct

TA2609170195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 26 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Knesset Speaker Shevah Weiss has decided that the Knesset plenum will convene on 10 October, after Yom Kippur, to discuss the Oslo B agreement. Upon Weiss' request, each member of the house will receive copies of the agreement both in Hebrew and English. Speaking to Police Minister Shahal, the Likud faction head has suggested that the opposition and coalition factions allow their members freedom of vote, but Shahal has rejected the idea.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the right-wing factions are demanding that the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee hold an emergency session to prevent the release of security prisoners who have murdered Jews.

Minister Yosi Sarid, member of the negotiating team on the issue of the prisoners' release, again said that prisoners who have murdered or badly wounded Jews will not be released. Women who are pardoned by the president will be released, as well as ill, elderly, or juvenile prisoners. Also to be freed are prisoners who have served two thirds of their term, but each case will be examined individually, Sarid said.

'Great Importance' Seen in Saudi Attending Ceremony

TA2609183895 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 26 Sep 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Saudi Foreign Minister will attend the signing ceremony of the Oslo B agreement in Washington. Jerusalem attributes great importance to this in view of the fact that Saudi Arabia has been hostile to the peace process.

Rabin Envoy to 'Arafat Announces Resignation

TA2709060095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 27 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yosi Ginosar has resigned from his position in the Prime Minister's Office as coordinator for Israeli prisoners and missing soldiers and the prime minister's special envoy to Yasir 'Arafat. A Qol Yisra'el reporter says that the resignation was in no way connected with Sunday's Taba agreement, as an announcement was to have been made last Friday but was put off until last night.

Settlers Urged To Give Up 'Greater Israel Dream'

TA2409142995 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 24 Sep 95 p 1

[Commentary by Nahum Barne'a in Taba: "The End of the Greater Israel Dream"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A review of the draft of the Oslo B agreement shows that a real revolution is taking place in the political reality of the Eretz Yisra'el territories. The daily life of the settlers will not change, at least not right away. Their security will be safeguarded. The agreement, however, does deprive them of something much more important: It takes away their dream of Greater Israel.

For some of the settlers this is a real tragedy. They did not come to Judaea and Samaria to improve their standard of living, but to inherit the earth. The agreement takes away their inheritance, space to grow, and plans for the future. In fact, the agreement creates a reality in which "Judaea and Samaria" has stopped existing as a political concept. There are lots of "Judaeas" and "Samarias" with a West Bank running through them.

The settlers, who have viewed themselves as the elite unit of the Zionist enterprise, have been left behind and are now a superfluous remnant that has been cast aside. Having once been the ones with the solution, they are now the problem.

It is hard to tell how they will act when they digest the meaning of the agreement. The hope is that their leaders will find a pragmatic way to deal with the new reality. They could, for example, sit with the Palestinian Authority officials and try to hold a dialogue about ways to run their daily life. Major General Ilan Biran, commander of the Central Command, said that during the interim-arrangement period, Judaea and Samaria will have corulers, coexistence, and dialogue. The settlers would be making a mistake if they failed to take part in this process. [passage omitted]

Gaza Closure Set To End 28 Sep

TA2609172295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 26 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The closure imposed on the Gaza Strip on 20 September will remain in effect until Thursday [28 September] at 0400. Until the closure is lifted, the transfer of goods will take place through the Qarni roadblock, and no passage of Palestinians into Israel's territory will be allowed.

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King Husayn Interviewed on Iraq, Peace Process

JN2609193095 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1733 GMT 26 Sep 95

["Dialogue" between King Husayn and members of the "European parliaments" with unidentified moderator; in Strasbourg on 25 September—recorded, in English; italicized passaged in French]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Moderator] Thank you Your Majesty. We have a number of questions. The first one will be asked by Mr. Gunar from Turkey. Mr. Gunar, please.

[Gunar] Your Majesty, you have referred to the situation in Iraq in your excellent speech. May I ask the following question: In your opinion, what sort of a government or state should take shape in Iraq to take into account the three elements you have mentioned in your speech and in what manner can your country contribute to the restoration of democracy, pluralism, and the respect of human rights in that country, thank you?

[Moderator] Your Majesty, please, please.

[Husayn] Well, sir, thank you very much indeed for the opportunity to present further news or elaborate more on what I have already said. In regard to Iraq, sir, we are very very deeply concerned that a country that has suffered so long, may continue to suffer towards either, heaven forbid the name, explosion and a bloodbath brought about by fears between the three basic elements that form Iraq of each other or despair which might bring about the disintegration of that country. The degree of the suffering of the Iraqi people is obvious to us, and I am sure, to you in Turkey. And I believe that every effort should be made by all of us, by the Iraqis themselves, by all the Arab states and the Arab leaders, by the international community to bring an end to the suffering, basically as it stands internally and externally.

Iraq is potentially a rich country. It has been throughout history. It is the land of the two rivers, it has energy and sources of energy the world needs, it has a dynamic people. What is going wrong is the absence of democracy, the absence of people sharing and shaping their future, the absence of the condition of pluralism, the emphasis of pluralism in their lives, and obviously the absence of respect for human rights. I have become more aware of late of the degree to which matters have deteriorated in Iraq. And that is where I have made my suggestions. I believe only the Iraqis themselves can determine exactly what their hopes and aspirations are in terms of the three basic elements that comprise Iraq. They can only do that through dialogue, dialogue by credible representatives of these three under conditions of freedom somehow to enable them to achieve national reconciliation and bring an end to the suffering of the Iraqi people.

As you will all know for a number of years, we and our Palestinian brethren have been talking about a possible confederation when conditions permit that in the future. It can only be if the people are free on the Palestinian side in terms of their land, in terms of their rights to express themselves to make such a choice, and it will can only be the result of our having a similar feeling and inclination in Jordan. But if a confederation is good enough for Jordan and Palestine, who are the closest members of the one family in the Arab world, maybe a federation in Iraq might be the answer for these three elements within the context of the one Iraq. Maybe their hope that the Armed Forces of Iraq will then respect only the new constitution of Iraq and be the instrument for the defense of Iraq and its future and the shield for the hopes of the Iraqi people will be fulfilled.

The problem is there, and I believe if we all worked toward achieving a solution and helping the people of Iraq, who are my main concern, and I am sure yours, then maybe this nightmare will be with us for not much longer. Thank you, sir.

[Moderator] Thank you, Your Majesty. Mr. Guner, do you want to put a supplementary question?

[Guner] Mr. Chairman, I am satisfied with the reply and I take this opportunity to express my gratitude and how I am pleased to see your majesty in this assembly.

[Moderator] Mr. de Lipovsky from France will put the next question, and if you find it necessary, after this debate, that you want to ask also on Iraq? *Mr. de Lipovsky, please.*

[Lipovsky] *Your Majesty, your address is that of a brave statesman and a man of peace whom we all here greatly respect. I too would like to speak of Iraq, and to ask you, Sire, to clarify your thoughts because you have given asylum to General Husayn Kamil. You held talks with him. Is the information he gave you what made you pessimistic about Iraq's future? You seem to now fear more a destabilization of the situation than a national reconciliation. The second question is whether, in your opinion, the latest information given by Baghdad on the weapons programs is complete, and can it result in the lifting of the embargo?*

[Moderator] *Thank you, Mr. de Lipovsky.* Your Majesty, please.

[Husayn] Sir, thank you very much indeed for the opportunity and thank you for the kind words. Yes, sir, the recent events and the seeking of Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil of refuge in Jordan, together with his

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family and other members of his party, did have an effect, a profound effect, on me because hearing of conditions firsthand from a very highly-placed member of the Iraqi Government, and indeed the presidential family—with his background of involvement in military armament during the eight long years of war with Iran and successes there, and bringing together brilliant Iraqi brains to serve their country, his involvement with the formation of the Republican Guard and Special Guard and Security, his role mainly in the aftermath of the war, in the reconstruction of the infrastructure of the country, but more importantly his closeness to the decision making apparatus in Iraq and his view of the sufferings of the people of Iraq which drove him to seek refuge in Jordan, because Jordan has always supported the people of Iraq—shook me beyond words. One heard much about what was happening there, but to have a clearer picture from someone that close who was driven to despair due to the lack of ability to influence matters in a different way, was something that hurt, and hurt deeply. In any event, sir, the people of Iraq have suffered and are suffering beyond words. They are suffering from the siege, the embargo, and they are suffering the denial of many of their basic human rights. As far as the revelations regarding weapons of mass destruction, I believe the world has a clear picture of what was available, or planned. Maybe, this is something that can be removed of the list of demands made of Iraq, and, hopefully, it will, very, very soon.

Tragically, sir, I believe that what has been absent in all this crisis since 1990 and until this day is dialogue. First of all, dialogue with the Iraqis in terms of their leadership, and even dialogue amongst ourselves, amongst friends, amongst the international community as to what to do, and how to help bring an end to this situation and save the people of Iraq. That is where I wanted to make our positions very, very clear, to offer some suggestions that it is wherever people do not matter, wherever people do not have a stake, do not feel that they have a share in shaping their future, that problems will continue to occur, be it in our part of the world or anywhere else, and somehow, transformation from where we are to where we should be must be achieved in the time ahead.

But the continuation of the suffering of Iraq from the strangulation from without, and conditions as they are from within, is something that has got to be brought to an end, sir. Thank you very much.

[Moderator] *Do you want to ask another question, Mr. Lipovsky? Are you satisfied with the answer? Thank you.* Mr. Alexander from the United Kingdom is third in the list. He wants to put a question. Please do, sir.

[Alexander] Your Majesty, thank you for your interesting speech and indeed for your courtesy in agreeing, as head of state, to take questions from our Assembly. I had the privilege of visiting Jordan very recently and I understand it on the 23 of August in a TV broadcast, you took a perhaps stronger line than previously against the Iraqi regime. And of course your country is in favor of the abolition of the United Nations sanctions. My brief question is this: (?Once) to accept your difficulties as a neighbor of Iraq, wouldn't the abolition of sanctions merely prolong the rule of Saddam Husayn and enable his rule of terror and repression against his own people to continue for much longer?

[Moderator] Thank you Mr. Alexander. Your Majesty, please.

[Husayn] Thank you very much indeed, sir, for your question, and particularly your appreciation of a head of a state taking questions. Over the years, I have become a man of all trades, sir. And so, it's a privilege to be here and a privilege to be able to answer your question as well. I do not know how in English language I can make it more clear, sir, but my concern has always been the people of Iraq. Not the regime, not individuals. Nor will it ever be. My concern is the people of Iraq, their future, their suffering. And again, I explained earlier on, I tried after the very major error committed by Iraq in occupying Kuwait to cause a reversal of that action and to try at least within the Arab context to resolve the problem. But I have never been for the occupation of Kuwait or the annexation of Kuwait. I've spoken time and again of the inadmissibility of acquisition of territory by war. This is a principle or an element of the United Nations Charter, which we have respected and addressed at all times when problems occurred, including our support to our British friends during the Falklands problem, because it is a principle we believe in. You will notice, sir, from what I have said, I hope, that I have put two things equally before you: The external pressure and the internal injustice and the need to address both, the need for Iraq to break out of both, the need for the Iraqi people to be a part of the world. Iraq was a founding member of the United Nations. Iraq, in the context of the region, in the context of peace and the better future for the area, would be a tremendous asset. The Iraqi people need help. It is all I'm saying. And to arrive there, we within the Arab world should get over our suspicions of each other and our ... [pauses] I've admitted before you and I will continue to state it very categorically: I have no ambition personally in Iraq against the background of the fact that I was the second person after the late King Faysal of Iraq who was killed with his family in 1958, since there was a union between our countries. And what happened then was a thing of

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the past. Our family has given martyrs throughout our Arab history. That was their fate. I hope that it is clear I have no ambition there. I have no objective there except to see the country recover from where it is. Gentlemen, ladies, excuse my saying so, but when over the last few days we hear of Iraqis that have been driven to the point of selling their own organs to provide some food and sustenance for their children, I believe that this is something we cannot tolerate much longer. In the same vein, we cannot tolerate the injustice and the hardship and the cruelty and the denial of human rights in Iraq that persists now. But if we put our (?minds) together, if we develop a consensus of what should be done, if we rise above — in our region — the questions of who wins and who loses, all of us will win if Iraq is healthy and not sick in our region. And I believe for the rest of the world, it is also important that our area become more stable and Iraq become an element of stability in the area, rather than continue to be what it is right now. Thank you, sir.

[Moderator] Mr. Alexander, are you satisfied?

[Alexander] President: I thank his majesty for that reply.

[Moderator] Thank you. The next question will come from Mr. Paplidis from Greece. Mr. Paplidis, please, you have the floor.

[Paplidis] Your Majesty, we like first of all to welcome you and then to please to accept my congratulations for the effort you paid for long time for the peace in the whole area, where you stay [word indistinct] of Greece. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe formed an adhoc committee under the chairmanship of President Mr. Martinez, which, with the support of the Greek Parliament, organized in the island of Rhodes, where I come from, in July a meeting between the representatives from the Israeli and Palestinian parliaments to discuss the possibility of active contribution of our organization in the process for the implementation of the Middle East peace treaty. At that meeting, all the participants concluded that the Council of Europe with its potential and long experience it has in the fields of democratic institution of human rights can help a lot the two sides for the consolidation of these values in this region, of course in the framework of the peace treaty. After that I would like to ask you Your Majesty if you believe that such an involvement could become, and this is a factor for the establishment of the permanent peace and cooperation between two sides, I mean Israelis and Palestinians. And then will I ask you: How your country can cooperate with us, the Council of Europe, to succeed the above target? Thank you.

[Moderator] Thank you Mr. Paplidis. Your Majesty, please.

[Husayn] Thank you very much indeed, sir, and I am sure that as a result of the recent great achievement of the new accord much progress will be forthcoming, including the possibility of elections in the very near future within the West Bank and Gaza and all the territories that fall under the control of the Palestinian representation, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. As far as we are concerned, sir, we are working with several dimensions. We are working closely with our Palestinian brethren to see exactly how we can move ahead, how we can address problems of mutual interest; we are working beyond that in a three-way with Israel; we are working also with Egypt. So, there are various tracks in which we are all involved in trying to contribute to a vision of what the future should be and what the opportunities are that peace presents in our entire region. As far as our cooperation so, I hope it will continue and it will develop in the future. And we are very much a part of everything and anything constructive for the better future of the peoples of the region and the world. Thank you.

[Moderator] Mr. Paplidis, you want to add something? Thank you Mr. Paplidis. Then Mr. Mimaruglu from Turkey is next in the list. Mr. Mimaruglu, please.

[Mimaruglu] Your majesty, let me congratulate you first of all of your speech, blend of wisdom, ponderation, and pacific attitude. Your speech reflects your pacific attitude that you have been following for more than 30 years. Let me take in international (?term). King Husayn has been everywhere in the region, where there was trouble. So, he has been pacific and [illegible]leshooter. In this context, Your Majesty, let me ask you one question. You, during your speech, you have been speaking about it, but I think that we need some more elaboration on this. How do you see the future of the coexistence of all the states as they are in the region? Thank you.

[Moderator] Thank you Mr. Mimaruglu. Your Majesty, please.

[Husayn] I can see it, sir, in the way I look at our friends here. I recall visiting the European Parliament before, and I recall the impressions that have remained with me since that time. What you have achieved is what we seek to achieve, and my hope and prayer at that time was that if I lived that long, I would one day be able to address an Arab parliament representative of Arab democracies of all the Arab states, and if I did not, well, I hope somebody will enjoy that before too long. This is the example before us. It is achievable with determination and vision, and I certainly hope we will achieve it. Relations in the Arab world should be relations based on mutual respect, noninterference in the affairs of each other, and cooperation wherever possible.

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What would enhance that very much indeed is for all of us to understand that we cannot stop the clock nor turn it back that people have rights everywhere, and its is our duty to pave the way for them as leaders to enable them to assume these rights and exercise them, that democracy, pluralism, respect for human rights is a way, that the creation of institutions, where people share in shaping their future truly and honestly gives the best guarantee of continued stability and progress and better understanding not only amongst Arabs, but anywhere and everywhere in the world. So thank you very very much indeed, my friend, and I hope I have answered your question.

[Moderator] Mr Bomel from France has now a question. *Mr. Bomel, please.*

[Bomel] *Sire, while preparations are under way to sign in a few hours time a historic agreement between the Palestinians and Israel, allow to ask you how do you envisage relations between the future Palestinian entity and your kingdom. To what extent can the idea you have supported for long and which you touched upon a short while ago about a Palestinian-Jordanian federation or a confederation can be achieved within a specific period of time? On what institutional basis; confederation, federation, a more flexible union? On what economic and social basis? Your Majesty, thank you.*

[Moderator] *Thank you, Mr. Bomel.* Your Majesty, please.

[Husayn] Sir, The answer in my mind is very, very clear. It's been very, very difficult, sir, to argue for one type of cooperation between brethren or another because absent freedom, democracy, elections, representation of people, and therefore the chance for them to express what they wish [pauses] any presentation on our side of how we see this future relationship might be counterproductive.

And very honestly, the Palestinians, our Palestinian brethren who are the closest to us of all Arabs and we are closer to them than all Arabs by virtue of history and geography and fact and life and equal suffering, have yearned to have their say regarding their future, have striven to recover their rights on their land. This is coming about, and the relations between our two countries are unique, between our two peoples in other words.

Now in the context of peace in the region there, we are talking of a different region in terms of relations of all. But on the Palestinian-Jordanian level, it will come, sir, it will come in time, and you will find the best answers when people are free and be able to concentrate on how this relationship should be.

What I seek, and again a reference to what I said earlier, is something that does not belong to individuals, that does not remain the question of a future tied to the survival of an individual or another. All my life I've tried to get Jordanians to share in shaping Jordan, in making the decisions that we had to make. And I hope that I will succeed in that, and I believe that I have to a very large extent, and without that, without democracy, without people joining in shaping their future freely, I don't believe Jordan would have survived.

We have taken difficult stands, we have adopted policies that may not have been understood at the time, but we came together, we came to know each other, we came to take pride in ourselves and in our freedom, pride in our ability to express ourselves, to work together, to build our country.

So, I hope similarly on the Palestinian dimension progress will be made, and I'm sure it'll be made everywhere in the Arab World. And eventually it will be the Arab World that is worthy of every Arab and a source of his pride.

As far as Jordan is concerned and Palestinians in Jordan, as you know, we do not differentiate, they are all citizens in the country of Jordan. There is an area where some who left after 1967 will probably have to return, we have already arrangements for meetings and negotiations between Jordan, the Palestinians, Israelis, and Egyptians on this particular subject. But as far as the rest, they are people of Jordan, they have the same rights as all Jordanians, and they will continue to enjoy these rights fully until such time as any of them has an opportunity to make another choice, and that is their right.

We are one family in Jordan, and we'll continue to be so. And we will work to help our Palestinian brethren in Palestine to recover their rights, and we'll help to sort out problems between them and the Israelis, and we'll use the credibility that we have within Israel itself as a result of our direct dialogue and the successes that we have achieved to help create a peaceful Middle East and a better future for all its peoples in the times ahead. Thank you, sir.

[Moderator] Thank you. Mr. Atkinson from the United Kingdom will put next question. Mr. Atkinson, please.

[Atkinson] Thank you, Mr. President. Your Majesty, in your absolutely excellent and inspiring and great foresight, your address this afternoon, you inferred that no one religion or country should have the overall custody of those places in the old city of Jerusalem that are holy to three religions.

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So, my question to you, Your Majesty, and I'm sure, Mr. President, I will not need a supplementary: Would you support proposals which provide for the internationalization of the old city, possibly along the lines of the so-called Vatican plan, as part of a final outcome of the peace process?

[Moderator] Your Majesty, please.

[Husayn] Sir, I tried to present my views as clearly as I could. I believe that [words indistinct] the reception they receive, I believe that more people are listening in the world and amongst those immediately concerned I cannot define exactly what the shape of things should be. In terms of the holy city, the old city of Jerusalem, but I believe that it should not fall under the sovereignty of any, it should belong to all the followers of the three great monotheistic religions equally.

Each should have full rights recognized in the city, in terms of what is dear and precious to them. It should become the essence of peace, the symbol of peace. I've always had a very firm belief. If the almighty God in His wisdom did not make that very small part of the world that important to all the children of Abraham that they fight over it, but they eventually find peace, respect each other, and each other's rights and desist from fighting over sovereignty over that city, leaving sovereignty only to God.

So, the right formula will be found, I am sure, sir. If there is the acceptance of the idea and the vision and if we are to learn from the lessons of history and if we are determined never to repeat the same mistakes again. That is as far as the holy city of Jerusalem is concerned. The rest of the city of Jerusalem, the Western side, is the de facto capital of Israel in any event. The Eastern part is occupied.

I don't see why it should not be possible to have both parts become the capitals of both Palestinians and Israelis alike. And, just bringing another element of real and true peace within the immediate region and between all the followers of the three Abrahamic religions. Thank you, sir.

[Moderator] Question, Mr. Maruflu, please.

[Maruflu] Your Majesty: On behalf of the Turkish delegation, I would like to thank you very much for giving us this opportunity with your presence at this assembly to be in touch with developments in the region to which my country has geographical proximity and therefore close interests.

I would like to take this occasion to express to your majesty my satisfaction from the excellent relations existing so happily between our two countries. I assure your majesty that you and your family have great admiration and sympathy in Turkey. I have prepared questions again very much related with Iraq. But in replying to the previous colleagues, you answered most of them.

So again I would like to ask that how do you read the future of Saddam Husayn's regime in the light of the recent developments? Thank you.

[Moderator] Thank you Mr. Maruflu. Your Majesty, do you want to add any comment to that?

[Husayn] I think, sir, that I've answered the question, and I share with you and with all our friends the concern for the people of Iraq, for Iraq's future, for its role within the region in a context of peace, prosperity, and progress. And again, sir, with regard to Jordanian-Turkish relations, Arab-Turkish relations, as far as we are concerned, we are proud of what exists between us and we hope that, together within the region, we will all always have the same views and the same approach to resolving any problems that might occur [words indistinct]. Thank you very, very much, indeed, sir.

[Moderator] Thank you. Mr. Livinsky from Poland will put the next question. Mr. Livinsky, please.

[Livinsky] My question is of a more general character. Your Majesty, the ideas of both pan-Arabism and pan-Islamism have undergone different changes through the decades since, for instance, the [words indistinct] time. How would you estimate them nowadays, and in this context, what's your opinion on the contemporary role of the League of Arab States as well as the Organization of the Islamic Conference. Thank you.

[Moderator] Thank you Mr. Livinsky. Your Majesty, please.

[Husayn] Sir, as far as the pan-Arabism, I have referred to that, I believe, in terms of my belief that our approach should be the approach that you have all taken here in Europe. The relations would be relations of complementary, of respect of each other, of continuity, and the coming together, hopefully, of democracies, of people free to make their choices and live by them, of an era of stability in the region in the times ahead. As far as the relations between the Arab and Islamic world, well Islam was born in the Arab world and our relations are those of brethren and very close brethren and will continue to be. As far as the organizations you referred to, with all due respect, I believe much more could be achieved in the future and should be achieved.

[Sole] But for Mediterranean peoples only. So I beg you to develop more your feelings and expectations about

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the Barcelona conference. What do you expect from it, especially which must be, in your opinion, the role of European countries, especially non- Mediterranean countries? Thank you

[Moderator] Thank you Mr. Sole. Your Majesty, please.

[Husayn] Thank you very much indeed, sir, for the opportunity to answer your question. We are obviously looking forward to the conference to further the relations and ties between our region and Europe.

And in terms of the Mediterranean, between the two parts of the Mediterranean, as far as the Arab world is concerned and Europe, for we are neighbors and we are linked by many interests and many concerns, and many hopes for the future, and I'll be fully supportive to explore all the possibilities to the greatest possible extent. Thank you very, very much.

[Moderator] Thank you, Your Majesty. This brings to an end this very moving day, moving part of our work. I want to tell you, my friend, that among the many privileges that I have held along for years, the presidency, and even today, one of them has been to be sitting here, listening to you and watching my colleagues. The attention, the concentration which those friends of mine who are the most solid and experienced politicians in our respective parliaments was extraordinary. But, it was not only that. It was also the attention of the ambassadors from 36, or even 40 countries here present, listening to this exercise, and it has been a very great moment. It was very moving to see your ambassadors, your people, your friends, your ministers, and if I dare say, your queen, looking at you with very great pride. I think this pride is also what I feel all of us should enjoy because you have called us, several times, your friends. This is a title which I am going to be proud, and I think my colleagues are going to be proud, and are going to deserve by the solidarity which they will express, keep on expressing to yourself and to your people.

Your Majesty, our assembly wants to give you our [word indistinct] medal which certainly a number of distinguished guests have received. I don't believe any of them would have deserved it more than King Husayn. Your name, and the date of today is carved on the medal, and I did not want to do as we do sometimes, give it during the lunch or give in my office. I want to give it to you publicly, in front of all my colleagues, because I think, all of them join me in doing that.

Al-Kabariti on Relations With Iraq, Egypt, Syria

MM2709101995 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 23 Sep 95 pp 1, 4

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti by Sawsan Abu-Husayn in Cairo; date not given: "The Follow-up Is an Iraqi Matter"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Abu-Husayn] Iraq has recently accused Husayn Kamil of stealing the Iraqi people's money. What is the background to this affair?

[Al-Kabariti] Husayn Kamil has not deposited any funds in Jordanian banks. Regrettably, some newspapers have wrongly attributed to me some false and fabricated statements on this matter, to the effect that Husayn Kamil had made some large deposits in Jordanian banks. This did not happen at all. We gave Husayn Kamil political asylum, as any state would. With regard to Iraq notifying Interpol, this is a matter that concerns him.

[Abu-Husayn] Have your relations with Iraq been affected by Husayn Kamil's defection to Jordan?

[Al-Kabariti] The media have exaggerated this matter. Our relations with Iraq are strategic, and we are keen to strengthen them. They will not be affected by any emergencies arising here or there. The interests of both peoples are linked and cannot be separated or exposed to any tensions.

[Abu-Husayn] Relations between Jordan and Egypt have also suffered because of the position on the Husayn Kamil affair and other issues.

[Al-Kabariti] Relations with Egypt are strong and excellent, and coordination is conducted at the highest level. However, what in fact happened was that some Egyptian newspapers "expressed their opinion" on some issues, and therefore Jordan did not take any notice of such statements. I met with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and discussed all ideas and views of mutual interest, especially the fact that there are no disagreements on many crucial issues. This has been agreed by the leaders of both countries.

[Abu-Husayn] There are some reservations, however, from some states regarding Jordanian policy on accelerating normalization with Israel, especially in view of Israel's failure to abide by the clauses of the peace process.

[Al-Kabariti] We signed a peace agreement with Israel which includes clauses relating to normalization. Therefore we must abide by the peace agreement signed with the Israelis.

[Abu-Husayn] Are there any new developments concerning your relations with Syria?

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[Al-Kabariti] I met with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' on the fringe of the Arab League meetings. We discussed all issues related to the peace process and bilateral relations. Syria understands our circumstances.

[Abu-Husayn] Why did Syria refuse to attend the Amman summit?

[Al-Kabariti] This is the only disagreement. We respect it, but would like to mention that Israel will also participate in the Mediterranean states' meeting in Barcelona. Syria refused to participate in the Amman summit on the basis that it is premature and that it believes it to be the gateway to the Middle Eastern market. We see it differently.

[Abu-Husayn] What about your relations with Kuwait. Are there any developments?

[Al-Kabariti] My meeting with the Kuwaiti foreign minister was extremely positive, and we agreed on holding further meetings, to be specified in good time, related to working toward the possibility of improving relations in the coming phase.

[Abu-Husayn] What is Jordan's view on holding an Arab summit to decide the charter of honor and the Arab court of justice?

[Al-Kabariti] We are in favor of holding such a summit, especially as there is a common desire, apparent during the Arab League meetings, concerning the need to hold this summit. We believe that it is considered the main gateway to Arab reconciliation, and hence crucial to all decisions concerning the Arab region and to establishing relations on firm foundations.

That is why we talk to Iraq, every now and again, about the need to implement Security Council resolutions, in order to multiply the Arab states' efforts to clear the air and provide an appropriate climate of trust to enable the summit to take place on new foundations.

Palestinian Bid To Import Iraqi Oil Denied

JN2509174595 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 25 Sep 95 p 8

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—A Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) request for U.N. Sanctions Committee exemption for planned imports of Iraqi oil to the Palestinian autonomous territories has been turned down, informed sources said Sunday.

The report of the rejection contradicted a report in the local press that the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) was expecting Iraqi oil to flow to the self-rule territories starting next month.

According to the sources, the PNA, based in the Gaza Strip, had filed an "informal" request to the Sanctions Committee in New York for an unspecified quantity of crude oil per day from Iraq, trucked overland through Jordan.

"Before the issue was formalised, the U.S. made it clear to all other members of the Sanctions Committee that the request should not be entertained, at least not for the time being," said an informed source. "As a result the issue was shelved."

The Sanctions Committee comprises representatives of all members of the United Nations Security Council.

Palestinian sources confirmed that the PLO request for permission for imports of Iraqi oil was made but asserted that it initially had the endorsement of the Clinton administration, which changed its mind last month.

According to a Palestinian source, Washington shifted its stand after the Aug. 8 defection to Jordan of two high-ranking Iraqi officials—Industry Minister Husayn Kamil Hasan and his brother Saddam Kamil who headed the Iraqi Presidential Guards—and their wives, both daughters of President Saddam Husayn.

"It seems that the defections encouraged the U.S. to pursue its quest to isolate the Iraqi regime rather than helping initiate new contacts between Baghdad and the outside world," said the sources, who did not want to be identified.

Diplomats as well as Jordanian and Palestinian sources noted that immediately after the defections the U.S. sought to cut off Jordanian-Iraqi links by coercing Amman to halt its imports of Iraqi oil and close its borders with its eastern neighbour.

The U.S. also lobbied Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to replace Iraq as Jordan's oil supplier. But Jordan resisted the move.

Asked to comment on the reported PLO bid, an Iraqi source said: "We are talking about a chicken even before the egg is hatched."

"Let the Palestinians secure U.N. permission, then we can look into the subject," added the Iraqi source, speaking on condition of anonymity.

It was not immediately clear how the PNA intended to process Iraqi oil if the U.N. permission had come through. The Palestinian territories do not have a refinery. A group of businessmen has been discussing a refinery project at a cost of about $400 million.

According to the Palestinian source, one option was to use Jordan's sole refinery at Zarqa, which has an installed capacity to refine up to 100,000 barrels per day but is using only half of that.

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"This would mean Iraq trucking an additional 35,000 b/d to Zarqa for refining and Jordanians reshipping the refined product to the Palestinian territories," said the Palestinian source.

Sources at the refinery declined comment.

Another option, said another source in the PLO, was to use Israeli refineries.

Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, the minister of finance in the PNA, which administers the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho since May 1994, was quoted in the local press as saying that Palestinian-Israeli talks were under way on the issue.

The local reports also quoted Mr. al-Nashashibi as saying in an interview with the Jerusalem-based al-Quds Press that the U.S. had approved the PNA's request to the Sanctions Committee.

According to Mr. al-Nashashibi, the PNa was also studying oil imports from other sources and was negotiating the purchase of natural gas from Qatar. No independent confirmation was available of the comments.

Paper on 'Arafat's Visit, Support for Palestinians

JN2609140195 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 26 Sep 95 pp 1, 17

[Editorial: "We Will Remain Asset, Backer for Our Kinsfolk in Palestine"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday's meeting between Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat once again reaffirms a fact which we have not forgotten for one minute; namely, that the members of the one family on both sides of the river share the same objectives and destiny. It also confirms our absolute confidence that no political changes will be able to affect the feelings of brotherhood every citizen in this country has toward our people west of the river, and that King Husayn's homeland will always be as the leader wanted it to be — and asset for Palestinians, and supporter and backer of Palestinians.

Emotions and sentiments notwithstanding, the Palestinian president's visit, during which he noted that his majesty the king intervened on several occasions at difficult times during the recent Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, should mark a new beginning for more coordination on all levels. On the political level, this can be done through unifying our stands both during and after the Amman economic summit. Coordination can also cover daily relations binding Jordanians and Palestinians with the aim of a common vision of the nature of the this region's relationship with its neighbors and the rest of the world.

It is noteworthy that the Jordanian role in backing the Palestinian Authority, which is now regaining a homeland destroyed by occupation, needs international as well as Arab support. It is a role which his majesty the king has outlined in word and in deed. Our role is to devote all our potentials and energies to supporting our people as they begin to breathe the air of freedom and start their difficult journey amid extremely complicated circumstances under a new world order which we need to understand. We also need to develop certain mechanisms to deal with it so that we can build a region that has achieved peace and not a mere settlement.

King Husayn's capital, as it welcomes the guests and expresses its support and blessing for what has been achieved through effort, patience, and perseverance, stresses its conviction that this is not all there is to it, and that there is a lot of work to be done by all to achieve the comprehensive peace that would satisfy coming generations and meet our aspirations for a better future.

Taba Accord 'Turning Point' in Peace Process

JN2509172495 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 25 Sep 95 pp 1, 26

[Editorial: "The Taba Agreement and the Point of No Return"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Taba agreement, which paves the way for the implementation of the second phase of the Oslo agreement, is an important event and a major turning point in the peace talks on the Palestinian track—a track which has been marking time for the past 15 months, threatening to return the peace process to square one.

Perhaps the serious difficulties this agreement faced and the laborious negotiations that went on day and night in order to arrive at this turning point strongly denote the significance of the understanding reached by the Palestinian and Israeli negotiators in order to extend the Palestinian self-rule area to the West Bank, and bring about the withdrawal of the occupation forces from the inhabited areas as a prelude to holding the Palestinian elections. Negotiations will then be held on the delayed issues and the final status of the occupied West Bank.

Undoubtedly, signing the Taba agreement means that the peace process, which was stumbling and tottering, has now reached a point of no return. It also means that the process, which began two years ago amid deep suspicions that the Gaza-Jericho First would become Gaza-Jericho Last, has now acquired great credibility. What began in Oslo will eventually achieve its ultimate goals no matter how long it takes and how many obstacles it encounters.

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Thus, the Taba agreement proves in a practical and tangible manner that wagering on the peace option was justified, and that the Middle East is not an exception to other world conflict areas which have responded to the logic of settling conflicts peacefully. This will definitely provide a strong, positive impetus for the completion of the process and the attainment of a just and comprehensive peace on the various fronts of the conflict—a conflict which entered the phase of settlement through negotiations four years ago.

The Taba agreement is another step of great importance on the road to completing the long march of negotiations on the Palestine question. In between the folds of this agreement, we see the dawn of a new phase that leads to the development of the Palestinian entity into the aspired independent state. We hope the next few months will witness a faithful implementation of the agreement and a clear Israeli fulfillment of commitments so that this interim phase, with all its difficulties and obstacles, may come to an end, and so that we will eventually be able to turn over a new leaf in the life of the peoples of this region.

Debt Cancellation Accord Signed With U.S.

JN2509171995 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 25 sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jordan and the United States have signed an agreement on the cancellation of more than $400 million in Jordanian debts to the U.S. The agreement was signed by Finance Minister Basil Jardanah and U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Wesley Egan here in Amman today. Minister Jardanah, who is due to leave for Washington later today, spoke to reporters about the agreement.

[Begin Jardanah recording] This is the second agreement we have signed to cancel debt due to the Government of the United States. The first agreement was $220 million. That makes the total about $640 million. Certainly, this is a big help and support to the Government of Jordan. That would relieve us from servicing $640 million of debt, which is more than 10 percent of our debt. That will make more funds and resources available to be spent on development. We are certainly grateful for the Government of the United States for giving us that support. And the economic cooperation and the support that the Government of Jordan has received from the United States is long. [sentence as heard] And this is one incident in addition to many incidents that took place. I am happy, Mr. Ambassador, that we are together today on this occasion. And certainly many people in Jordan join me in happiness in this occasion. Thank you, sir. [end recording]

Following the signing of the agreement to cancel Jordan's public debt to the U.S., Ambassador Egan spoke to Radio Jordan reporter Husayn 'Abduh Musa:

[Begin Egan recording] The agreement that the minister and I signed this morning is a very technical agreement. It is the procedure whereby the outstanding balance of Jordan's debt to the United States, something over $420 million, is eliminated from the books. As you know, we went through a very long process with the United States Congress earlier this summer. This required Congressional authorization, because to forgive debt costs actual dollars, and has a direct budgetary impact and you have to find the money in our domestic budget to actually buy down the face value of the debt. The document that we signed today listed a whole series of accounts, outstanding balances much like the statement you would get from your bank at the end of a month. And minister's signature and my signature eliminates with one stroke something over $420 million in debt and suspends any further servicing or payment that the Government of Jordan might have to make on other small accounts as we reconcile the final figures. As you may recall last summer it was our original intention to forgive Jordan's debt in three major tranches. I am delighted that we have been able to do that in two, rather than three. I am particularly pleased that we were able to manage it before the Amman economic summit in late October. [end recording]

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Al-Hariri Comments on Extending President's Term

NC2609205095 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 26 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has stressed that the extension or renewal of the president's term is up to the Chamber of Deputies, which is the master of its own affairs. He said that extending the president's term, if endorsed by the Chamber of Deputies, would be an asset to Lebanon and the Lebanese.

Speaking at an economic seminar held at the Summerland Hotel this evening, al-Hariri pointed out that Lebanon's Arab and foreign guests are astonished and amazed by the progress made in the past few years. Al-Hariri disclosed the government is in the process of setting up new industrial zones.

U.S. Nonintervention in Presidential Term Issue Viewed

NC2709082095 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 18 Sep 95 p 20

[Column by Sati' Nur-al-Din: "The Last Station"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Some Lebanese feel disappointed because the United States has so far not interfered in the presidential "deadline," which is due in few weeks. They are surprised because Washington has refrained from expressing a frank opinion on the extension of the presidential term or the other impossible options.

Although these people have expressed an implicit readiness to do their best to persuade the United States to intervene, they have not agreed so far on the reasons for this odd U.S. phenomenon.

Some do not hesitate to conclude that the United States, no longer the sole superpower, can not intervene in every world affair and impose presidents, governments, and parliaments on peoples.

Others say the United States is preoccupied with its domestic affairs, prompting President Bill Clinton to drop foreign policy from his main agenda—something for which Lebanon will pay a "dear price."

Many agree with the analysis that the problem lies with the United States and not Lebanon but disagree on its final outcome, because the United States has not totally neglected its foreign policy but instead changed some priorities (in favor of the Bosnian crisis, for example).

Other Lebanese analysts have come up with an extraordinary view, namely that the United States will give its final word at the "eleventh hour," according to U.S. Eastern Standard Time.

Buwayz Leaves for UN General Assembly Meetings

NC2709093895 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 27 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz left Beirut for New York via Paris today to head Lebanon's delegation to the UN General Assembly meetings.

In a predeparture statement at Beirut airport, Minister Buwayz said that it is unlikely that he will meet with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher because the latter will be outside the United States when the Lebanese delegation arrives in New York. He said that his address will touch on the Israeli occupation of the south and the Lebanese detainees.

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Taba Accord Termed 'Agreement of Relinquishment'

JN2609175495 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 25 Sep 95 p 1

[Editorial: "The Agreement of Relinquishment"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian Authority initialed the second stage of the self-rule plan in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, known as the Taba agreement, while the Israeli occupation forces were engaged in terrorist and suppressive actions in Ramallah, Nabulus, and Hebron. They were killing, wounding, or arresting Palestinian citizens; closing streets; and setting up roadblocks and checkpoints. Zionist settlers, backed by the occupation forces, also took part in this hysterical campaign.

The Taba agreement was reached amid a serious atmosphere of tension and rage in the West Bank. The agreement will thus complicate the situation in the West Bank cities, villages, and camps and pave the way for more terrorist and suppressive actions against the Palestinian Arab people in Ramallah, Nabulus, Janin, Tulkarm, Qalqilyah, and Jerusalem. This is because the agreement maintains the settlements and the seeds and manifestations of Israeli terrorism, which is now taking organized forms through radical Israeli movements, parties, and organizations with the support of the Israeli Army that will maintain security and control roads, bridges, and crossing points in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Yitzhaq Rabin announced that "the Taba agreement has enabled Israel to control most of the West Bank and that security will remain under Israel's supervision in general."

While watching the play of the Taba negotiations, the sons of Hebron were aware of the serious and unacceptable concessions the Palestinian negotiators made by approving the presence of 400 Israeli settlers in Hebron and also allowing the occupation Army to stay in the city to protect those settlers. As a result, the Israeli Army will continue to control the holy Ibrahimi Mosque of the city. Therefore, the Hebron citizens strongly objected to the signing of such an agreement that relinquishes their land, rights, future, and identity.

The Taba agreement has forsaken thousands of Palestinian prisoners and left the issue of their release to the mercy of Israeli terrorism and according to Israeli conditions and whims. It has also placed the West Bank Palestinians in the detention camp of the self-rule. The agreement, which means a catastrophe for the Palestinian people, has turned the Palestinian land into isolated cantons linked together only by Israel's control over security of roads, crossing points, and bridges because the occupation will remain in all its settlement, military, and terrorist forms in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, especially since the Taba agreement did not refer to withdrawal but talks about redeployment of Israeli Army forces. Under the agreement, the Palestinian police will confront Palestinian citizens in cities and villages rather than the occupation forces. Most times, such confrontations will take place jointly whenever Israel wishes that.

Above and beyond all of this, the Taba agreement separates Jerusalem from the West Bank territories and cities. Rabin reasserted that "Jerusalem will remain Israel's undivided capital." As a result of this agreement of relinquishment, the situation in the occupied Arab territories is likely to see more upheavals while a just and comprehensive peace takes a back seat.

Radio: New Agreement Disregards Palestinians' Rights

JN2609163495 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1135 GMT 26 Sep 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Sorrow, pain, and indignation prevailed in the occupied Arab territories, after signing the Taba agreement. These territories witnessed violent clashes and confrontations with the occupation forces while the Hebronites staged demonstrations, denouncing the relinquishment of Hebron, its people, and its holy shrines to satisfy the whims of 400 Zionist settlers. Although those who signed the new agreement are singing the praises of peace, no one in the occupied territories was deceived by this. Facts and events confirm that according to the new agreement, Israel is in control of nearly 70 percent of West Bank territories and exercises total hegemony over security, sovereignty, resources, borders, roads, and strategic positions. The new maps of the West Bank drawn by the Israelis show that Israel and its environs are completely isolated and that the Palestinian cities are like islands isolated from one another and tightly fenced by Zionist settlements. Meanwhile, the Israeli Army is surrounding the cities and towns and is ready to interfere at anytime.

The new agreement canceled the Palestinian people's basic rights to self-determination and to establishing an independent state, totally disregarded the fate of Jerusalem, and mortgaged 120,000 Arabs in Hebron. However, it did not encroach on the privileges of one single settler. Indeed, since signing the Oslo agreement, the settlers became more ferocious and hostile. They received more money and privileges. It is enough for us to note that these settlers are wasting 80 percent of the West Bank's water resources, while the Palestinians are

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suffering from thirst and are forced to leave their lands barren as a result of harsh natural conditions.

Under the pretext of greater Jerusalem, Israel seized 40 percent of the West Bank's area. Then, it announced that the holy city is closed in the face of the Palestinians and that it is its eternal capital, imposing its own laws on the city. According to the new agreement, Jerusalem's Arab citizens do not have the right to run in the elections or to take part in them. The agreement allows them to take part in the elections from a distance, that is, by sending postcards with the names of their candidates in other West Bank cities. This constitutes a blatant attack on public liberties and on the rights of the Palestinian people, which are secured by the United Nations and its resolutions. Moreover, this agreement is a flagrant violation of the simplest international principles.

It is natural for the Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied territories to react to this new agreement of relinquishment with denunciation, anger, and pain. It is also natural for them to deride its signatories' claims of achieving peace. Peace is supposed to achieve freedom, independence, pride, and dignity for the Palestinian people and not confirm Israel as a guardian over their resources. Moreover, peace is supposed to remove occupation, oppression, and coercion and to secure the right to self-determination and building a free future. It is not supposed to legitimize for Israel the right to occupation, control, and interference in every detail. Peace is supposed to lead to implementing the UN resolutions which do not permit occupation, settlement, or annexation. It is not supposed to negate these resolutions, isolate Jerusalem, and dismember the West Bank.

All this media clamor that will be launched will not at all change the inherent facts. Ahead of these facts is that partial and incomplete agreements do not achieve peace and do not bring the region any closer to it. Peace primarily depends on Israel's full withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 borders and on the removal of all its settlements. The current escalation in the occupied territories and future escalation are the result of agreements that were imposed on the Palestinian people and have nothing to do with peace.

Papers Criticize Taba Agreement, Reiterate Position

JN2709090495 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 27 Sep 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Under the headline "Peace From Injustice and Oppression Cannot Last" AL-BA'TH says comprehensive and real peace cannot be achieved with only partial rights. The whole world is not satisfied that what happened in Taba—and before that in Oslo and Wadi al-'Arabah—will end tension and threats and ensure security and stability in the region.

AL-BA'TH says Israel insists on maintaining a defective peace process in order to have a pretext to continue its aggressive march against the Arabs, its occupation, and its settlements in the occupied Arab territories, from which Israel refuses to withdraw in response to international resolutions and laws.

AL-BA'TH stresses: Israel deliberately obstructs peace efforts with Syria and Lebanon in order to justify the Biblical allegations that became political law in Israel.

AL-BA'TH says: Syria is eager to keep the door of peace open without ignoring Israel's intentions and without relinquishing its alertness and precaution because the Israelis are not serious about peace.

It says: There are facts that the Israeli allegations cannot refute. The comprehensiveness of peace cannot be realized without Syria and the justice in the solution cannot be secured without Israel's response to resolutions of the Security Council and international legitimacy. If the obstacles are overcome, there should be a positive way of dealing with the Syrian position that is based on the recommendations and resolutions of international organizations and conferences that reject the occupation of others lands by force.

Concluding its editorial, AL-BA'TH stresses: In order not to give the Israeli allegations a chance, Syria said repeatedly that it will not throw up obstacles, but it also will not accept the Israeli conditions and will not allow one bit of its national soil to remain under the Israeli occupation.

In its editorial entitled "The New Evidence" AL-THAWRAH says: After the Oslo and Washington agreements, it was proven that Israel does not intend to make a just and comprehensive peace. It was also proven that the peace Israel seeks from its policy of pressure, blackmail, maneuvering, and aggression, and from changing the historical and geographic facts, is no more than a capitulation that is only realized when the Arabs cede their just rights and causes.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Both agreements show that Israel wants a marginal settlement that is based on a partial solution, that perpetuates the occupation, and that guarantees it will obtain new objectives represented by a wide-scale economic invasion of Arab land.

AL-THAWRAH stresses that Israel, which has attempted to isolate Arab parties in order to obtain partial solutions and to dictate its conditions on them, failed in

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this policy with both Syria and Lebanon because of the firmness of their position and their bilateral coordination. In the meantime, it succeeded in tailoring settlements and agreements that suit its ambitions with those who chose to deviate from the spirit of Arab coordination in response to false Israeli promises and temptations.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: The new Oslo agreement is no more than a model of the settlement based on Israeli style. It shows the wide gap between the defective Israeli concept of peace and the real concept of peace which is based on the principles of full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and the absolute recognition of the full legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

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India

TV Reports on Demonstration Near U.S. Embassy

BK2609151095 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1430 GMT 26 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Workers of the Delhi Youth Congress and Lok Abhiyan [Mass Movement] held demonstrations near the American Embassy in New Delhi this morning to protest against the proposed decision of the U.S. Government to provide military aid to Pakistan. The police used water cannons to control the demonstrators.

Addressing the demonstrators, the Youth Congress-I president, Mr. M.L. Bitta, said that history has shown that whatever military aid the United states gave to Pakistan was used against India.

Minister's Helicopter Fired On by Pakistani Troops

BK2709095995 Hong Kong AFP in English 0940 GMT 27 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Srinagar, India, Sept 27 (AFP) — A helicopter carrying Indian Power Minister N.K.P. Salve was fired on Wednesday [27 September] after straying into Pakistani airspace from Kashmir state, officials said.

"I was told the helicopter was fired upon by Pakistani troops," the minister said on his return from the border district of Uri. But officials said no one was injured in the incident.

Salve said he was told the helicopter, taking him to visit a power project, was fired upon when it mistakenly strayed into Pakistani airspace. He added that the aircraft was not hit by the gunfire.

ISI Attempt To Smuggle Arms Into Kashmir 'Foiled'

BK2709022595 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 26 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, an attempt to smuggle arms and ammunition by the Pakistan intelligence agency ISI [Inter-Service Intelligence] has been foiled. The BSF [Border Security Force] captured foreign pistols, magazines, and explosives on the India-Pakistan border in Samba sector. This was disclosed by a BSF spokesman in New Delhi today.

Meanwhile, two militants carrying accessories for assembling explosive devices have been arrested at Banihal. The arrested persons disclosed that they were given these transistors in Srinagar for passing them over to some persons in Jammu. Two other persons have also been taken into custody for interrogation in this connection.

TV Details Three Bomb Explosions in Delhi

BK2609153295 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1430 GMT 26 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Another explosion took place in Delhi today injuring a child. According to the police, the bomb planted in a utensil went off near a railway crossing. This is the third explosion in the capital since the evening yesterday. Forty-six people were injured in two bomb explosions near the Red Fort yesterday.

[Begin unidentified correspondent's recording] The two bombs exploded at an interval of about half an hour. Police say the low intensity bombs were placed on the roadside and exploded when two- wheelers passed over them. Off the 46 injured, some are serious. A number of vehicles were also damaged in the explosions. Soon after the blasts, the site was cordoned off. A red alert was sounded in the capital. The injured were admitted to nearby hospitals and 15 of them were later released. The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, visited the injured in the hospitals. Mr. Chavan announced an ex-gratia release of 5,000 rupees to each injured admitted in the hospitals and 10,000 rupees to each of the seriously injured. [end recording]

The Delhi lieutenant governor, Mr. P. K. Dave, today held a meeting with senior officials and commissioner of police of Delhi and reviewed the laws and order situation in the capital. The instructions have been issued for all-round vigilance and alert in public places and other vulnerable points and congregations.

'Militant Group' Said Responsible

BK2609125495 Hong Kong AFP in English 1218 GMT 26 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi, Sept 26 (AFP) — A Sikh militant group Tuesday [26 September] claimed responsibility for two overnight blasts in New Delhi that injured up to 60 people, as another bomb went off in the northern city of Panipat, officials said.

A statement purporting to come from the Sikh separatist group Khalistan Liberation Force (KLF) said the twin explosions near the 17th-century Red Fort here late Monday were carried out with radio-controlled devices.

The KLF said another bomb attack, also engineered by its sympathisers in New Delhi, had taken place in a city suburb on Tuesday. The New Delhi police said they could not confirm any such attack had taken place.

The communique said the attacks were staged to "put a stop to atrocities being committed on Sikhs and Moslems in Punjab and Delhi by (Indian) security forces."

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The Press Trust of India (PTI), meanwhile, said at least seven people were injured Tuesday when another bomb exploded at a railway station in Panipat, 150 kilometres (90 miles) from the Indian capital. There was no immediate claim for the blast.

The purported KLF statement was hand-written and delivered to the Srinagar office of the PTI, the news agency said in a dispatch from that city, which is the urban hub of a Moslem separatist campaign in Indian-administered Kashmir.

The first blast occurred at 7:30 p.m. (1400 GMT) Monday outside the fairgrounds in Old Delhi where a crowd estimated at 20,000 was attending the first day of an annual festival to the Hindu god Ram.

The second explosion took place 45 minutes later several hundred yards (metres) away near the 17th-century fort in the same area.

Detectives said both blasts were caused by "low-intensity crude bombs" and showered pedestrians with glass and shrapnel, injuring up to 60 people and peppering vehicles.

Police said the bombs were hidden in scooters or planted on the roadside but a witness said one of the explosive devices had been thrown.

Doctors at the Lok Nayak Jaya Prakash hospital said several of the 48 injured blast victims brought to the state-run facility have been discharged on Tuesday morning.

"We have four people on the critical list, but the remaining patients are safe," said surgeon Kapil Kochar, adding that a dozen others did not report to the hospital and instead went to private clinics with cuts and bruises.

Monday's blast came amid reports that at least two Sikh guerrillas from the northern state of Punjab had infiltrated the city to stage terrorist attacks.

Senior police officers after attending an emergency meeting here Tuesday said politicians and bureaucrats, who are on the death lists of Sikh militants or Moslem guerrillas from Kashmir, have been advised to take precaution.

The city police have placed their forces on high alert and tightened security in public places.

The Indian capital has been rocked in the past by bombs planted by Sikh separatist groups fighting for a homeland in Punjab.

Sikh militants have generally struck at high-profile targets, however, and have been accused of engineering the August 31 blast in the Punjab city of Chandigarh which killed Punjab Chief Minister Beant Singh and 19 others.

The KLF was virtually decimated in a merciless assault launched by Indian security forces against Sikh separatists in Punjab during 1992.

More than 25,000 people died between 1983 and 1992 in the militant Sikh campaign for a separate homeland called Khalistan (land of the pure) in the Punjab.

Kashmiri separatist groups have also recently begun staging bomb attacks as part of their bid to end Indian rule but their activities have been largely confined to the Moslem-majority Kashmir Valley.

Pakistan Held Responsible

BK2609160595 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 26 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Congress-I has charged Pakistan with attempting to destabilize the country by triggering bomb blasts in Chandigarh and Delhi. The party spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, said in a statement that it appears that Islamabad has launched a campaign against New Delhi.

The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has also expressed concern over the bomb blasts. The party spokesman, Mr. K.L. Sharma, said that the government should make a concerted effort to nab the culprits.

The lieutenant governor of Delhi, Mr. P.K. Dave, held a meeting with the senior officials and commissioner of Delhi Police today and reviewed the law and order situation in the capital.

Meanwhile, one child was reported injured in yet another explosion at a railway crossing in Northwest Delhi this morning.

In Haryana, eight persons were injured, two of them seriously, in a grenade blast at the Panipat railway station this afternoon. According to an official spokesman, the blast took place when two boys tried to tamper with a brass bottle containing the grenade.

TV Reports on Agriculture Accord With Mongolia

BK2509154495 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1430 GMT 25 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India and Mongolia have agreed to exchange scientific and technical information in agriculture. The two sides signed a work plan for this in New Delhi today. The agreement was signed by the Mongolian deputy minister for food and agriculture, Mr. Suren Jargal and the secretary of the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Mr. G.

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Balakrishnan. There will be exchange of seed samples such as cold resistant early maturing wheat, barley, and other varieties. Mongolian scientists will be trained in India and specialists of two countries will study the possibilities of setting up wheat seed production farms besides a goat and sheep milk processing plant and a vegetable plant.

Bulgarian Minister Visits, Discusses Investments

BK2709034695 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 26 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India and Bulgaria have agreed to substantially increase investments in trade and industry in either country. This was agreed to when the visiting Bulgarian first deputy prime minister and the minister for economic development, Mr. Rumen Gechev, called on the home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, today. India will help Bulgaria in areas like construction of railway lines, power projects and airports. A high-level Bulgarian inter- ministerial delegation headed by Mr. Gechev is on a five-day official visit to India.

Meets With Agriculture Minister

BK2709061295 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 27 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India and Bulgaria have agreed to further strengthen the institutional framework of bilateral economic and commercial cooperation. The issue came up during the meeting between the Bulgarian first deputy prime minister, Mr. Rumen Gechev, and the agriculture minister, Dr. Bal Ram Jakhar, in New Delhi yesterday. Both the leaders agreed that economic liberalization in India and the ongoing reforms in Bulgaria present opportunities for increasing bilateral trade. Dr. Jakhar expressed the hope that businessmen will take full advantage of emerging commercial avenues.

Earlier, Mr. Rumen Gechev called on the home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan. India would also help Bulgaria in areas like construction of railway lines, power projects, and airports.

Report Doubts Russian Jet Deal To Materialize

BK2609122395 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 7 Sep 95 p 12

[Report by Avinash Singh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] NEW DELHI, Sept. 6 — The much-touted Indo-Russian deal for the purchase of multi-role fighter bomber Su- 30 may not come off. The Russians, given the external pressure and regional compulsions, have jacked up the price of the aircraft and will revise the terms to "hard-cash basis" if the transfer of technology (TOT) is to be there.

However, it has offered India to consider its earlier version of fighter interceptor Su-27, the aircraft which Russia has sold to China and Vietnam recently. Besides, it has proffered a whole range of air defence and weapon control systems, if India avails the promised $800 million soft loan. However, some of these weapons systems, Indian experts feel, are of near vintage variety.

Much to its chagrin, the high-level Indian delegation led by Defence Secretary K. A. Nambiar during its recent Moscow visit found that Russia, with its Defence sales looking up, had redrawn its price list for the other wares for which India had projected requirements.

The Indian team also could not make any progress on Naval acquisitions, sources in the Defence Ministry revealed. It may be recalled that India had been looking for a replacement of its aircraft carrier, INS [Indian Navy Ship] Vikrant, a World War II vintage, that has been lying docked for nearly six months because of high operational cost. A technical evaluation team of the Indian Navy had visited Russia last month, partly coinciding with Mr Nambiar's trip, to have a look at "Admiral Gorshkov", which was up for grabs.

A senior member of the delegation, who did not want to be quoted, while insisting that the visit was "quite fruitful", conceded that terms on offer were not attractive enough in a number of cases. "They were more intent on selling weapon-control and air-defence systems rather than fulfilling our requirements," he specified. The Su-30 proposition, with transfer of technology (TOT), he said, was too costly "and beyond our means".

However, the official was emphatic in dismissing that the Moscow talks were a "failure". India is not averse to considering the all-weather Su-27 fly-by-wire aircraft proposal, he added.

In case of a TOT agreement the Su-27 machine, optimised for air support missions, could compete with MiG-29 interceptor, for exports. Capable of air-to-ground missions, the aircraft can carry ordnance (bombs and missiles) on 10 hard points. It incorporates the pulse doppler radar for a better ground view, and it is equipped with electronic optical weapon-control systems comprising infra-red search and tracking senses combined with laser range-finder.

As per the Su-27 manual, the machine is capable of carrying out high-low-high (dive-and-scoot) attack missions with 8 FAB-500 bombs at a speed of 1,200 km per hour and a low defence attack (LDA) mission flying at virtual treetop level at a speed of 850 km per hour. For an air-combat role, the aircraft is equipped with 10 air-to-air R-27R and R-27T missile. Like Su30,

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add-on fuel tank provision exists in Su-27 for a longer loitering time.

AD SYSTEMS: Su-27 apart, the Russians offered a wide range of high, medium and low air-defence systems for mechanised forces. These include 2-S6-M Tunguska guns and missiles, short-range SA15 Gauntlet SAM (surface-to-air) medium range SA-II Gadfly and long- range S-300 PUM-I, better known as SA-1OB Grumble

On Naval front, sources in the Defence Ministry sought to clarify that, since an evaluation team had gone separately, talks about aircraft carrier "Admiral Gorshkov" did not even come up. It is said that experts were against buying "Admiral Gorshkov" on two counts. One for its limited capacity, and also as updating the carrier for take-off and landings would have cost a fortune.

Sources said India was now considering another carrier with 35000 tonnes capacity. INS Vikrant, having outlived its utility, is a 25,000-tonne warship. Moreover, since INS Virat, the only aircraft carrier in operation with the Indian Navy, is also listed for decommissioning before the turn of the century, there is a possibility of India going in for two warships of the same family. In case of Su-30, sources admitted that since Russia was in the process of closing ranks with China, and was also helping in developing PC-1 multi-role aircraft, it would not have been palatable for the latter if India went in for an aircraft that was an advanced version of what they have in their inventory. Moreover, because of the cash crunch Russia was more interested in deals involving instant payment.

Russia, it is felt, has made it quite clear that under the $800m soft loan promised to India, only air defence and weapon delivery and weapon control systems were available. It is a matter of common knowledge that Russians have been quite against India going for Israeli avionics for MiG-21 update, and would still like to equip the 1970s machines with Russian wares.

Air Force Chief Stresses 'Massive Upgradation'

BK2709105195 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 27 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The chief of the air staff, Air Chief Marshal S.K. Kaul, has said that the Indian Air Force needs to go in for massive upgradation to counter the U.S. arms sales to Pakistan. Addressing a press conference in New Delhi last night, he said more fighters, advanced radars, high levels of training, simulators, and armaments are needed.

He said the Russian offer to sell the SU-30 and SU-27 fighter aircraft is being evaluated. He also stressed that the missile development program should be continued in view of Pakistan's acquisition of M-11 missiles from China. The air marshal said he expects a decision on the purchase of advanced jet trainers in the near future. The deal running into several thousands of crores of rupees will be finalized soon with one of the two contending parties. Referring to the bird hit menace, the air marshal said that the state governments should take steps to remove slaughter houses near the airfields and also improve the disposal of garbage.

Al-Faran Silence on Hostages Said 'Not Worrisome'

BK2709064095 Hong Kong AFP in English 0601 GMT 27 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Srinagar, India, Sept 27 (AFP) — Indian officials said Wednesday [27 September] that they had not been contacted for a week by Moslem separatist guerrillas holding four Western tourists and that the kidnappers may be shifting hideouts.

Kashmir government spokesman Kulbushan Jindiyal said the Moslem separatist group Al-Faran had not been in touch with the authorities since the night of September 19 but stressed that "the gap is not worrisome."

"To the best of our knowledge, the hostages are alive," he said. "Our hope is that the abductors will resume communications soon and that the matter will be resolved peacefully."

Another Indian official here, who requested anonymity, said the Al-Faran militants who seized two Britons, an American and a German in early July may be moving the hostages from the increasingly cold Himalayas to the plains.

"There are indications that the abductors are shifting the hostages from their previous hideout to a new one keeping in view the onset of winter," the official said.

Government spokesman Jindiyal ruled out a commando-style rescue operation saying it could endanger the lives of the hostages.

"All of our efforts are directed at ensuring that the hostages are freed at the earliest possibility, and all general diplomatic channels are being used to pressure the abductors to release them safely," he said.

Britons Paul Wells, 23, and Keith Mangan, 33, American Don Hutchings, 42, German Dirk Hasert, 26, and Norwegian Hans-Christian Ostro, 27, were kidnapped by Al-Faran guerrillas while trekking in the Himalayas in early July.

Ostro was killed by the militants last month.

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A government negotiator, Rajinder Tickoo, has been trying to re- establish direct or indirect contact for the past week with Al- Faran, a previously unknown group which is believed to comprise mainly of Afghan mercenaries.

Tickoo had been talking to Al-Faran representatives by radio until two weeks ago. Since then, the authorities have been communication with the abductors by telephone through Moslem intermediaries.

The break in communications with Al-Faran followed the publication last week of excerpts of radio conversations bwtween Tickoo and the rebels in an Indian news magazine.

Al-Faran is demanding the release of 15 Moslem militants from prison in exchange for the four tourists. The Indian government has refused a swap.

Moslem militants have kidnapped scores of Indians and a number of Westerners to demand the release of jailed guerrillas or focus world attention on the separatist campaign that has left more than 12,000 people dead since 1989.

Iran

Velayati Views Christopher's Charge of 'Terrorism'

LD2609115995 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Sep 95

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati by IRIB TV correspondent Nowbaveh in New York; date not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Nowbaveh] Mr. Warren Christopher, the U.S. secretary of state for foreign affairs, in his address to the UN General Assembly described the Islamic republic of Iran as the biggest supporter of international terrorism. What is your excellency's opinion on the timing of these remarks and what is the aim behind them?

[Velayati] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. These remarks are not new and have been said before by Mr. Christopher. Of course, one should distinguish between what Mr. Christopher says and the United States' usual policy, both of which are of course directed against the Islamic Republic of Iran. But Mr. Christopher has a specific hostility and enmity toward the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the world, too, has grown accustomed to these baseless remarks.

It would be better if, instead of these unfounded remarks and baseless accusations, Mr. Christopher would go about finding the roots and reasons for the failures of the United States government in the field of foreign policy. This is not something that just we are saying — many U.S. political analysts also admit that the present U.S. government has encountered numerous failures in its foreign policy.

What they describe as support for terrorism and of which they accuse the Islamic Republic of Iran is related to the Islamic Republic of Iran's support for the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples in their quest to retrieve their just rights from the Zionists.

Velayati Meets With PRC Counterpart in New York

LD2609130995 Tehran IRNA in English 1254 GMT 26 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] United Nations, New York, Sept. 26, IRNA — The foreign ministers of Iran and China in a meeting here on Monday [26 September] emphasized importance of cooperation between the two countries and consolidation of bilateral relations.

'Ali Akbar Velayati, who is currently here for the 50th annual session of the U.N. General Assembly, met with his Chinese counterpart, Qian Qichen, at the sidelines of the U.N. session.

The two ministers exchanged views on the regional and international issues.

Qian Qichen, referring to adverse publicity of certain countries on China-Iran nuclear cooperation, said no international law prohibits countries from peaceful cooperation in nuclear energy.

Velayati said that the visit to Tehran of the Chinese vice-president was a positive step towards consolidation of bilateral cooperation.

He added that exchange of political delegations between the two nations will help boost bilateral relations.

Velayati also said that in the light of the regional and international developments Tehran welcomes exchange of views with Chinese officials and increased Iran-China cooperation.

Spokesman on UK Official's Refusal To Meet Velayati

LD2609222595 Tehran IRNA in English 2215 GMT 26 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sept. 26, IRNA — Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman, Mahmud Mohammadi, here today stated that the top Iranian delegation in New York, headed by Foreign Minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, have emphasized the fact that they have not called for any meeting with British Foreign Minister, Malcolm Rifkind.

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This was in an answer to the question put to the delegation that Rifkind refused to meet the Iranian delegation on Tuesday [26 September] on the ground of Salman Rushdie affairs. This matter was also scandalized in the foreign media on the same day.

When the newly appointed British foreign minister was asked to state the reason for refusing to meet the Iranian foreign minister, he indicated that it is due to the very tight program and the differences on the fatwa of the late Imam Khomeyni condemning Rushdie to death.

The spokesman finally concluded that the side program of the Iranian foreign minister included meeting with the European foreign ministers, but the UK foreign minister was excluded from the schedule from the very beginning of the planning.

UN Envoy Views Position in Post-Cold War Politics

LD2109205295 Tehran IRNA in English
1558 GMT 21 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] United Nations, Sept. 21, IRNA — Iranian ambassador to the United Nations, Kamal Kharrazi said in New York on Wednesday [27 September] that the international politics has undergone a fundamental transformation since the end of the Cold War.

Speaking to the instructors and students at the State University of New York on the international security and disarmament in the Middle East, he said the events of the past several years have undoubtedly altered the structure of power and influence in the world.

Bi-polarity has given way to a transitional period where there is a quiet struggle between a uni-polar and a multi-polar international system. What is loud and peculiar, however, is the extent of allegation, discrimination and the pressure which certain quarters in the United States level against Iran in every step of the way, particularly in the field of transfer of technology and nuclear energy, he added.

U.S. allegation that Iran is seeking nuclear weapons and is perhaps 5 to 10 years away from it can be heard loud and clear in the U.S. media, but, the subsequent dismissal of that allegation by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) which is the only competent international body in this field is not even reported upon, let alone heeded, he said.

Kharrazi said in the midst of all these allegations against Iran by the United States, it is interesting to note the views of some American military specialists who did not make the headlines. For example, Mr. Antony Cordesman was quoted by Washington report of July, August 1995 as saying, "no one I know in the U.S. intelligence community believes Iran to be in the middle of massive build-up... You can say it, but once in a while you need statistics to back it up."

Iranian ambassador to the U.N. said, "therefore, in my view, perhaps Iran represents a scapegoat in the quiet post-Cold War struggle for power and influence to shape the new international political order. One evidence for this contention is that some in U.S. intelligence circles have even compared Iran's alleged threat to the national security of the United States to that of the Soviet Union during the Cold war. Of course, it is more common that one would wish to accept that government agencies, particularly intelligence and to some degree law enforcement would engage in fantasy and far-fetched missions and tasks for themselves to secure congressional budgetary allocation for their otherwise de-emphasized functions.

He said the current international political atmosphere after the the Cold War is marked, therefore, with continuity of erroneous power politics of the past on the one hand, and disorientation and anxiety over the management and direction of the post-Cold War opportunities, on the other.

Iranian ambassador to the United Nations said,"in my opinion, U.S. foreign policy suffers from these two post-cold syndromes where in the old Cold War mentality it finds it necessary to create an enemy for itself — like the Islamic Republic of Iran, however, illusory and with no foundation in reality."

Kharrazi said, "I would like to impress upon you that a certain degree of sophistication, skepticism, curiosity and discernment are required of us all, particulary of academia in consuming what is reported as news — for it is usually a blend of facts, fiction, information and misinformation. This is all the more true in today's polarized political atmosphere in respect of Iran and the United States. An example of this polarization is the U.S. campaign against Iran on the question of Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT]."

Like many other non-aligned countries, the Islamic Republic of Iran is of the view that the manner of implementation of NPT is hardly a success story, he said,

Kharrazi said, "we have also believed that during the last 25 years, NPT had not achieved any of its major goals to the extent that was generally expected."

Certain nuclear weapon states, ostensibly the most vocal advocates of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons have rendered materials and technology to some of their allies to develop nuclear weapons, he said.

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He said apartheid's South Africa and Israel are two known such states.

Iranian ambassador to the united Nations said that this approach has nurtured destablizing incentives in the Middle East and that Israel's refusal to accept the NPT and IAEA safeguards has led to non-accession to international instruments prohibiting weapons of mass destruction, most notably chemical weapon convention by a number of states in the region.

He said another example is the failure of nuclear-weapon state to commence substative measures towards complete nuclear disarmament, instead, they increased and upgraded their nuclear arsenals in an unbridled fashion.

The other poor record of implementation of NPT is the selectively restrictive approach of the nuclear-weapon states to deny non- nuclear-weapon states of their inalienable right to have access to peaceful application of nuclear technology, he said.

Furthermore, he said, the most critical weakness with the NPT is that it legalizes the possession of nuclear weapons by the declared nuclear-weapon states and legitimizes the distinction between the nuclear-weapon and non-nuclear-weapon parties to the treaty.

He said Iran as a non-nuclear country party to the NPT treaty who has been unjustly denied its inalienable rights under the treaty to have access to peaceful use of nuclear technology believes that full and non-dicriminatory implementation of the provisions conducive to our common efforts towards a better world order would enhance the authrority of the treaty.

On the Middle East issues, he said in the Middle East where various and competing political, strategic and ideological interests come into play, weapons of mass destruction not only present a dangerous escalation, but also, a major impediment to a comprehensive settlement of the problems.

He said the objective of non-proliferation as a compotent of total elimination of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction has assumed added significance in the new international environment.

Given the sensitivity of the Middle East region, it is essential to direct all efforts to make this region, once and for all, a zone free from any weapons of mass destruction, Kharrazi said.

Chinese Diplomat Interviewed on Nuclear Assistance

NC2609195695 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 12 Sep 95 p 4

[Interview with Hua Liming, the ambassador and plenipotentiary representative of the PRC in Iran, by unidentified correspondent in Tehran; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Correspondent] Recently, there have been two issues that generated discord between Beijing and Washington and merit more discussion than any others: One was the issue of trade between the PRC and the United States and the other was the visit by Taiwanese officials to the United States. Could you elaborate on this?

[Liming] Initially, I should give you an account of the past record of commercial dealings between the PRC and the United States. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Relations between the United States and the PRC became so strained that the ambassadors were recalled to their respective countries. However, after a while relations were normalized and there was no mention of recalling ambassadors. My question is what was so convincing for the PRC that relations were so swiftly normalized?

[Liming] What do you mean by normalized?

[Correspondent] Political observers interpreted the aforementioned developments as a marring of relations. The question is what convinced the PRC at that time, that is, what green light did it receive from the United States?

[Liming] I do not think that relations have returned to the level before Li Peng's visit to the United States as we have recalled our ambassador from Washington. As for the U.S. ambassador to Beijing, there was no question of recalling him as he was on the verge of being replaced and the United States introduced his replacement in Beijing. But the PRC did not announce its acceptance of the new ambassador and even now the PRC ambassador has not returned to Washington and the U.S. ambassador has not announced his approval of the new ambassador [as published].

[Correspondent] You mean that relations have not yet been sorted out?

[Liming] We have laid down certain conditions. The United States should pledge to renew its promise of 20 years ago that it would not pursue the policy of two Chinas or a China and a Taiwan; it should adhere to its commitment and the PRC and Taiwan should be considered an integral whole as such. [passage omitted]

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[Correspondent] An issue that you mentioned briefly was that of human rights. As you are well aware, countries such as Iran and the PRC and many other countries are accused of violations of human rights for the propagandist objectives of some Western governments. How do you assess the human rights policy in the PRC especially if the United States is the one on the other side of the fence?

[Liming] Nearly 200 years ago, there were no human rights in China especially prior to the revolution. China was constantly the victim of aggression by the greater powers which exerted pressure on its resources. [passage omitted]

I am not saying that the human rights situation in the PRC is perfect. In fact we admit that we do violate human rights in certain respects. We are prepared to discuss human rights but not to have it used as a political ploy against us. The PRC Government and nation would never accept this.

The second point is that there are different variables in the world. Every country has special criteria for its culture and we should accept this heterogeneity. This means that the system that exists in the United States may be appropriate for it but not for the PRC. The Chinese people know better than the Americans what they should do in the PRC or how the welfare of the Chinese people should be provided for. Thus we can never accept being dictated to by the Americans. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] How do you view the future of Iran's relations with the PRC?

[Liming] We see the future of Iran-PRC relations as very bright. In my opinion, the level of Iran-PRC relations is extremely high especially in the aftermath of the Islamic Revolution because our relations have deep roots and I have repeatedly stated that one of these roots is cultural. We are both Asian countries and we have ancient civilizations and relations which go back thousands of years during which the two nations never had any problems or ill-will.

The second issue is that despite differences in values and social systems, in the past century or two the PRC and Iran have endured much suffering and tyranny from the greater powers. This similar experience is extremely helpful as we can empathize with your pain and you can comprehend our problems. Today, we both do not want to be enemies with any other country in the world.

We want to be engrossed in the reconstruction of our respective countries but others create problems for us. We have many common denominators as regards international issues, whether they are related to independence-seeking by some countries or domination by superpowers. Whether it is the issue of human rights or something else we sympathize with one another. In matters of trade and economic cooperation between the two countries, we have enjoyed excellent returns. Since Iran is one of the larger countries in West Asia and the PRC is one of the major countries in East Asia and both have abundant resources and talented people, we can have superb economic and commercial exchanges.

[Correspondent] Have political relations between Iran and the PRC been overshadowed by the international system or conversely have they aligned themselves with the changes in the international system?

[Liming] In the new world order, Iran and the PRC are in agreement.

[Correspondent] The nuclear tests by France and the PRC have elicited immense international protests. What is your opinion of this? Would you give Iran the right to have nuclear capability?

[Liming] The atmosphere whipped up by the Western media is quite contrary to reality. The superpowers were the ones who initially decided to manufacture nuclear weapons and after thousands of nuclear tests they were able to create a massive nuclear power of immense capability. If you were to inspect the U.S. nuclear arsenal now you would see hundreds of thousands of nuclear warheads. The same is the case with Russia and some other countries.

Thus the process was started rather late in the PRC! I remember when in 1964 the PRC carried out its first nuclear tests. We announced that the PRC would never use its nuclear weapons and would never use them to attack. We even called on other nuclear powers to join in this pledge.

As regards Iran, your country's officials have repeatedly announced that the Islamic Republic of Iran is not seeking nuclear weapons but the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy. Thus, I believe that all the countries of the world have the right to pursue peaceful objectives with regard to their nuclear energy programs. As for the power plant that you are planning to set up with Russia's help [at Bushehr] or the one that will be set up in Iran with the PRC's cooperation I should state that the United States has hundreds of nuclear power plants and so does France. There are nuclear power plants in nearly all industrial countries. Thus it would be illogical to deprive a developing country like Iran of a nuclear power plant.

[Correspondent] So you endorse the exchanges of nuclear reactors between Iran and the PRC?

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[Liming] Yes. In 1992, during the visit by President Hashemi- Rafsanjani to the PRC, an agreement was signed between the PRC and Iran. The PRC accepted some specific conditions and promised that two 300-megawatt nuclear power plants would be sold to Iran. Currently we are involved in commercial negotiations on this.

[Correspondent] The PRC must certainly have been subjected to pressure by the Washington administration. Could you elaborate on this?

[Liming] Yes. It is true that they exert pressure on our government with regard to our relations with Iran. However, we believe that the PRC is an independent country with an independent foreign policy. The PRC is free to choose its own friends and it will not allow its actions to be supervised by other countries. We have always considered the Islamic Republic of Iran our friend.

TV Reports on Mining Agreement With South Africa

LD2009201795 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1800 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran and South Africa signed a mining agreement.

The agreement was signed by the South African mines and energy minister and our country's mines and metals minister in Johannesburg yesterday.

On the basis of the agreement, the two countries will cooperate in the exploration and exploitation of gold and iron ore mines as well as the expansion of their aluminium industries. The two countries' experts will also work closely together in scientific and technical fields in that respect.

South Africa currently purchases the majority of its oil from Iran. The Islamic Republic of Iran and South Africa are busy negotiating to expand their cooperation in all fields.

President Hails Beijing Conference's Delegation

LD2609145495 Tehran IRNA in English 1444 GMT 26 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sept. 26, IRNA — President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Tuesday [26 September] lauded the successful presence of Iranian delegation to the world conference on women held in Beijing earlier this month.

In a meeting with the members of Iranian delegation, President Rafsanjani said the delegates managed to disarm the enemies and dissidents culturally by coordinating activities of Iranian independent, government and non-governmental participants, showing to the world that Muslim women play a key and valuable role in administrating state affairs and promoting Islamic goals.

The president also appreciated the active participation of Iranian religious minorities, their patriotic thoughts and their commitment to the Islamic Republic.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the coordination made in the course of the conference should be used to improve the views of Muslim women on their eligibility. Such sacred values should be separated from the illogical and unislamic and archaic traditions and that the personality of women in the Islamic Iran should be distinguished according to their Islamic thoughts, he said.

He said there exists differences of opinion between Islamic and Western thoughts about the status of women, adding "We are not only against the unethical way of life in the West, but also, do not allow the presence of women in social activities to be misused for immoral considerations."

He pointed to deep rooted problems of Western states arising from their unethical life style, saying the Westerners could no longer defend unethical schemes under the slogan of freedom in light of the promotion of Islamic thoughts in contemporary era.

By contrast, the president said, the Islamic Republic of Iran is capable of addressing the world public opinion about its successful handling of women's affairs.

The president emphasized, in the meantime, the need to avoid going to the extremes about women's presence on social scene and to rectify the wrong and unprincipled traditions prevailing in Islamic society.

He said, "We should take heed of our stand in this regard. The healthy presence of women on social scene and administration of state affairs fully complies with the objectives of the Islamic republic."

Radio Interviews Oil Minister on Caracas Meeting

LD2409133695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The oil minister left for Caracas, the capital of Venezuela, this morning to attend a joint meeting of oil producing and consuming countries. Let me draw your attention to an interview conducted by our reporter with Mr. Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Khoi before his departure.

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[Begin recording] [Aqazadeh-Khoi] This meeting is of great importance. A large number of producing and consuming countries are coming together in Caracas to discuss ways of cooperating and to talk about various matters such as environmental issues, prices, the prospects of the oil and gas situation in the coming decades, as well as the means of bringing about coordination between producers and consumers.

In view of the number of participants and the ministers who will be taking part in the meeting, it will be a good opportunity to hold bilateral meetings, in addition to the actual conference agenda. There will also probably be an informal OPEC meeting there and necessary consultations will be held between the members with regards to the next formal meeting.

[Correspondent] Taking part in such a meeting requires that OPEC member countries should have undertaken some previous coordination. Has this been the case?

[Aqazadeh-Khoi] Yes, discussions were held at the previous OPEC meeting about the organization's joint stances and there are summaries of this, mostly relating to tax issues, as well as environmental issues, investing in the long-term future of the oil and gas sector, prices, and the production capacity of OPEC members and non-OPEC members. These points were discussed in the last meeting and joint viewpoints were reached by OPEC.

[Correspondent] At a time when, during the past two years, OPEC member countries have maintained their production level, non-OPEC producers have been supplying the 1.5 to 2 million barrels in excess demand on the international market. Will there be separate talks between OPEC members and non-members in this regard?

[Aqazadeh-Khoi] Without a doubt, because non-OPEC producers, especially the countries with high production levels, such as Norway and Britain, will be taking part in the conference and there will undoubtedly be bilateral or multilateral talks with them.

[Correspondent] Thank you. [end recording]

Velayati Returns After Turkmen Cooperation Meeting

LD2109123295 Tehran IRNA in English 1129 GMT 21 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sep 21 (IRNA) — Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati returned home Thursday [21 September] from Turkmenistan where he took part in the second trilateral meeting of foreign ministers of Iran, India and turkmenistan, on economic cooperation.

Speaking to reporters upon arrival, Velayati stressed that regional cooperation was vital for preservation of peace and security in the region.

He added that transit of goods via Iran was the major issue brought up and discussed in the meeting, also attended by Indian and Turkmen Foreign Ministers Salman Khurshid [minister of state] and Boris Shikhmuradov.

Noting that the three foreign ministers signed a letter of understanding on transit of goods via Iran, Velayati said that the agreement was signed following settlement of previous trivial disputes among the three countries.

The agreement, amon gothers, envisages establishment and promotion of trilateral cooperation in trade, economic and banking fields, he said, adding that the three sides also agreed to set up working committees to formulate related documents in this connection.

It was also agreed that the third trilateral meeting be held in Tehran. The first meeting among Iran, India and Turkmenistan was held last spring when President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani visited New Delhi.

Velayati noted that cooperating with its neighboring countries and other regional states tops the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Meanwhile, Velayati conveyed a message from President Rafsanjani to his Indian counterpart Narasimha Rao inviting him to pay an official visit to Iran in the future.

Official Visits Province, Addresses Enemy 'Plots'

LD2409135195 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, the Majles speaker, arrived in Kerman for a five-day tour of the province. [passage omitted]

Nateq-Nuri, taking part in a glorious gathering of the people of Kerman at the Imam mosque, honored the self-sacrificing participants in the eight years of holy war, and referring to various plots by the enemies of the Islamic revolution before and after the victory of the revolution, said: Before the revolution the Americans, despite their support for the ill-omened, despotic regime of the Shah and the suppression of the believing people, could not withstand the Islamic movement and the clergy. After the victory of the revolution, following their failure to achieve their aims by encouragement of the hypocrite, lackey groups and creating division, they imposed the "imposed war" on the Iranian nation. But our heroic people, with their self-sacrifice and unified

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participation in the war disappointed the enemies and at the same time became veterans themselves.

Referring to the recent conspiracy by the Zionist regime for hijacking an Iranian airliner, he said: The Iranian people do not take such things lightly and the carrying out of the congregational prayer by the hijacked passengers gave an important message to the world.

TV Reports on Completion of 'Nasr Maneuvers'

LD2609124095 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Nasr maneuvers which began yesterday on the occasion of the epic of the Holy Defense in the Robat-e Qarehbil region of Mazendaran Province, ended with the achievement of predetermined goals.

In the maneuvers, the troops of the ground forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran's 30th Army Division displayed aspects of their combat readiness. Over 5,000 infantry troops of the ground forces took part in the Nasr operational maneuvers, during which groups from the Army Aviation gunners, backed by tanks and armored units, fired at predetermined targets. [Video shows men, helicopters in action over hilly terrain]

Official Addresses Funding for Research Projects

LD2509081295 Tehran IRNA in English 0723 GMT 25 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sept. 25, IRNA — Rls.[rials] 33 billion have been earmarked for five research projects to be undertaken by the Ministry of Industries this year, said Iran's representative at the Asian Productivity Organization (APO).

Speaking to the English-language daily IRAN NEWS, published Monday [25 September], Yusuf Hojjat who is also deputy for research and planning at the Ministry of Industries said this is not the sole financial source for research projects, and that industrial units and companies have their own budgets for such activities.

Hojjat, the current president of the APO noted that the five research projects concentrate on "industrial units, the automobile law, automobile testing facilities and their standardization, procductivity, and grant of technical and technological aid."

He elaborated that during the first five-year plan, more than 250 research projects were completed by the Ministry of Industries and the former Ministry of Heavy Industries through government funding.

He reiterated the ministry's resolve to carry out more research projects in all industrial fields during the second five-year plan.

"After the revolution, we have issued 232 agreements in principle, of which, 63 have been approved and given research permits," Hojjat said.

He pointed out that industrial organizations and companies with a personnel of more than 250 are bound to set up research and development centers, while smaller companies have a choice.

If they choose to establish such centers, they will be given certain privileges, he stressed.

Stating that research should yield financial benefits to researchers, he referred to Iran's recent economic policies which have paved the way for research undertakings.

"If research is in tune with the true needs of the people, it will amply promote the country's economy, industries and economic development," he noted.

In the APO's 38-year history, this is the second time Iran has been elected APO president, a testimony to Iran's active role in international bodies, the paper quoted him as saying.

Referring to the optimal performance of Iran's National Productivity Organization (NPO), Hojjat cited some of NPO's goals as "promoting the concept of productivity, determining productivity indices in different sectors and assessing productivity."

The state administrative and employment affairs organization has currently forwarded a proposal to the cabinet for the establishment of the high council of productivity under the chairmanship of the president, Hojjat concluded.

Pakistan

Bhutto Views Matters of National Security, Peace

BK2709044995 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 0300 GMT 27 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister says her government would never compromise on matters of national security, peace, and welfare of the people. She said this while talking to some members of the National Assembly who called on her in Islamabad yesterday. The prime minister advised the elected representatives to maintain constant contact with the people and work for their welfare.

The MNAs [Members of National Assembly] congratulated the prime minister on her success at national and international levels, and said that improvement of

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Pakistan's relations with the United States reflects the success of her government's foreign policy based on principles. Those who called on the prime minister included Mr. Khatumal Jivan, Mr. Liaquat Hayat Badrana, Kazi Fazlul Haque, Haji Mohammad Afzal, Syed Ahsan Hayat, Mr. Korban Ali Chohan, Mr. Motiram Muloni, and Noor Mohammad Bhaba. The elder of the Jamali tribe, Sardar Yar Mohammad Jamali, also called on the prime minister.

Islamabad Welcomes Agreement Between PLO, Israel

BK2609143395 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 26 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pakistan has welcomed the agreement between the PLO and Israel providing for limited autonomy to Palestinian people in West Bank towns. A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that the agreement was an important contribution toward just and final settlement of the complex problem in the Middle East.

Senator Interviewed on Relations With Afghanistan

BK2109140295 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 21 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pakistan has declared 13 Afghan diplomats working in Pakistan as persona non-grata and asked them to leave Pakistan within the next 48 hours. A Foreign Office spokesman told newsmen in a briefing in Islamabad today that seven of these diplomats, including the minister counselor and charge de'affaires, Mr. Mohammad Mokhtar, are from the Afghan Embassy in Islamabad. Among the remaining six, two each are from the Afghan consulates in Karachi, Quetta and Peshawar.

On Kabul regime president Rabbani's allegations of interference by Pakistan into Afghanistan's affairs, the spokesman said there are some groups in Afghanistan who are constantly trying to raise the bogey of Pakistan being behind the Taleban. However, he said, these accusations are baseless as Pakistan has always maintained a neutral stance toward the strife between various groups in Afghanistan and considered it their internal matter. We have with us in this studio Senator Shafqat Mahmud who is a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Senator, why have the relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan reached this stage?

[Mahmud] The relations have come to this pass because the Kabul regime, which is only one faction of the various groups in Afghanistan, has always misunderstood Pakistan's intentions and which are not to take any sides, on the side of any group, and as you know, about a week ago or 10 days ago, the Pakistani Embassy was attacked by a crowd...

[Correspondent, interrupting] Yes.

[Mahmud] ... and there are reasons to believe that this attack on the Pakistani Embassy was instigated by the Kabul regime. In spite of this provocation, the Government of Pakistan has taken a very graduated response and has not reacted with great deal of anger. But it was necessary that those diplomats of the Kabul regime, who are responsible for the situation reaching such a pass, be asked to leave. We have not closed down the entire Afghan Embassy, the Kabul regime's Embassy in Pakistan, although they have made it impossible for Pakistan Embassy to work over there. Only 13 diplomats of the total of 55 have been asked to leave. I think this is a very sober response; it is a response which is measured. In fact, the provocation is far greater than this.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much, senator. [end recording]

Minister Stresses Noninterference in Afghan Affairs

BK2409102195 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 24 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The minister for law, justice, and parliamentary affairs, Professor N.D. Khan, has reiterated that Pakistan does not believe in any interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. He was responding to a point of order raised by Maulana Mohammad Abdus Sattar Khan Niazi in the Senate today regarding recent developments in Afghanistan. The law minister stated that Pakistan is in contact with friendly countries about Afghanistan. He said it is the right of the Afghan people to decide their destiny. Pakistan, he said, respects this right. He also showed the house that the government is fully aware of recent developments in that country and we support UN efforts to bring peace to Afghanistan.

Ministers Address Indian Violations, Kabul Attack

BK2609134095 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 26 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The defense minister, Mr. Aftab Shaban Mirani, has said cease-fire violations by Indian forces along the Line of Control in Kashmir are calculated moves by the Indian Government to divert the attention of the people from what is happening in the occupied valley. Speaking on a call-attention notice by Mr. Ahsan Iqbal, Mr. Haleem Siddiqi, and Mr. Aftab Ahmad Taha in the National Assembly today, he said

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Pakistan is prepared to face any eventuality along the Line of Control. He said India has depopulated a 5-km area from the Line of Control and the purpose of the cease-fire violations was to keep the people of Kashmir well away from the Line of Control. He said the government was ready to brief the Defense Committee of the house about the situation along the Line of Control.

Earlier, winding up discussion on an adjournment motion about the attack on the Pakistan Embassy in Kabul, the law minister, Mr. N.D. Khan, categorically stated that Pakistan was not interfering in the internal affairs of Afghanistan and wanted a consensus solution. He said Pakistan was being blamed by the Kabul regime, as the Kabul rulers wanted to gain sympathy of a neighboring country. He said Pakistan is in contact with Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the warring Afghan factions for a final solution.

Taking part in the debate, the parliamentary secretary for foreign affairs, George Clement, said Pakistan never interfered in the internal affairs of Afghanistan and wanted stability in that country. Mr. Gauhar Ayub Khan, Khwaja Mohammad Asif, and Mir Zafarullah Khan Jamali from the opposition benches were critical of the foreign policy and said the foreign policy must serve the interests of the country. They, however, said that Pakistan was not supporting the Taleban. The house will meet again tomorrow afternoon at 1600.

Further Comments on Embassy Attack

BK2709032195 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 26 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The National Assembly was informed today that the well-being of Afghans is dear to Pakistan and the government will continue to support efforts for restoration of peace and stability in Afghanistan. The parliamentary secretary for foreign affairs, Mr. George Clement, speaking on an adjournment motion regarding the attack on Pakistan's Embassy in Kabul, said the government and people of Pakistan have nothing against their brother Afghans. However, the provocative acts of the Kabul administration cannot be tolerated.

Strongly condemning the incident of attack on the Pakistan Embassy, he maintained that the Kabul government failed to fulfill its responsibility of protecting the embassy and has violated the Vienna Convention. He said perhaps the Kabul government has taken this provocative step to appease some foreign power or to cover up its own increasing unpopularity among the masses.

Defending the foreign policy of the government, the federal law minister, Professor N.D. Khan, hoped that this issue will also be sorted out very soon. He said the present government has for the first time highlighted the Kashmir issue in world capitals, which has bolstered the country's image in the community of nations. The federal minister, Dr. Sher Afghan, and opposition members — Mr. Gauhar Ayub Khan, Khwaja Mohammad Asif, and Mir Zafarullah Khan Jamali — also spoke on the motion.

The defense minister, Mr. Aftab Shaban Mirani, responding to a call-attention notice, assured the house that the government is fully alive to the situation arising out of violations of the Line of Control by the Indian Army and is ready to meet any eventuality. He said India wants to detract world attention from the grave situation in occupied Kashmir by creating tension along the Line of Control. The call-attention notice was moved by Mr. Ahsan Iqbal and some other opposition members.

Afghanistan's Rabbani Asked To Close Offices

BK2709022295 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 26 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Pakistan Government has asked the Afghan president, Mr. Borhanoddin Rabbani, to wind up his office in Islamabad. A UNI [UNITED NEWS OF INDIA] report says that the home minister, Mr. Nasirullah Khan, also said that offices of Mr. Rabbani's allies in Rawalpindi have also been closed.

Offices Closed; Supporters Arrested

BK2709124395 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 26 Sep 95 p 1

[Article by Tariq But]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Maj Gen (retd) Nasirullah Babar said Monday [26 September] that the offices of Afghan groups headed by President Borhanoddin Rabbani, Ahmad Shah Mas'ud and Prof 'Abdol Rasul Sayyaf in Pakistan had been closed down and their supporters arrested.

He told a group of newsmen that action was being taken against Afghans illegally living in Pakistan. He did not give the figure of those apprehended so far.

The action against three Afghan groups is linked to the anti- Pakistan policies of the Kabul regime, which is continuously trying to embarrass Pakistan.

The Interior Minister said the situation in Karachi has considerably improved and if the Altaf group wants to give more strike calls, let it do so. "This will only create Problems for its own people." .

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He said the government had fixed a target of six months to restore normalcy in Karachi. The operation is on for the past two and a half months and will continue for another three months to achieve the desired purpose, he said.

General Babar said no human rights violations were being committed in Karachi. "Do the 10/11 thousand persons killed by the Altaf Group not have any such rights?" he asked.

The Interior Minister said the arrest of Altaf Hussain was not the sole objective of the government and the operation would succeed even without his arrest.

He said the first and second tiers of the leadership of the terrorists were no more there. Now they are without the leadership as well as the weapons." That is why, he said, the terrorists are now using fire-crackers. The government has seized the factory which was making these crackers, he said.

Russian Official Visits, Discusses Military Hardware

BK2509063295 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 25 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Aleksandr Vengerovskiy [name as transliterated], leader of the visiting Russian parliamentary delegation, has said that his country is ready to supply military hardware to Pakistan. At a meeting with National Assembly Speaker Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani in Islamabad last night, the Russian visitor said the mode of payment can be discussed during the Pakistani prime minister's Moscow visit.

Aleksandr Vengerovskiy, who is deputy chairman of the Russian parliament, stressed the need for lasting relations between the two countries in the industrial and technical fields for their mutual economic benefits. He said the Russian policy is based on balance and Russia understands Pakistan's worries on the Kashmir problem. He said that Russia is interested in making investments in Pakistan and these investments should be protected by law.

National Assembly Speaker Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani briefed the Russian parliamentary delegation on the functioning of the parliament. He told the delegation that the Kashmir dispute, which is the legacy of British imperialism, needs to be resolved peacefully. Later, the speaker hosted a dinner in honor of the visiting delegation. During his speech, the head of the Russian delegation said that he is visiting Pakistan before visiting India. Russia will not issue any statement in the future that might cause Pakistan concern.

Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani said the Kashmir issue threatens stability in the region. The presence of about 600,000 Indian troops in occupied Kashmir is a cause of grave concern for Pakistan. The indigenous struggle of the Kashmiris deserve the urgent attention of the world community, he added. The dinner was also attended by Wasim Sajjad, Senate chairman; Gauhar Ayub, deputy leader of the opposition in the National Assembly; and a number of other parliamentarians.

Assures Readiness To Supply Equipment

BK2509155095 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 25 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A parliament delegation from the Russian Federation led by A.D. Vengerovskiy, deputy chairman of the Duma, while meeting with the federal minister for information and broadcasting, assured that Russia is ready to supply high-technology military equipment to Pakistan. The delegation, which met Mr. Khalid Ahmad Khan Kharal at Isamabad today, expressed the hope of ushering in a new era of economic cooperation between the two countries. Mr. Vengerovskiy said that Pakistan is an important country in Asia and Russia is ready to cooperate in the field of defense. He underlined the need to explore possibility, which could further strengthen relations between the two countries. [sentence as heard] The minister also briefed the delegation about the atrocities by the 600,000 Indian troops in the held-valley of Kashmir and called for its early settlement in accordance with the UN resolution.

Article on Russian Supply of Defense Equipment

BK2709130495 Islamabad THE NATION in English 26 Sep 95 p 16

[Report by Ishtiaq Ahmad]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ISLAMABAD—Russia is ready to supply high technology defence equipment to Pakistan, says A D Vengerovskiy, Deputy Chairman of the Russian Parliament. India, he adds will disintegrate and the repercussions of this disintegration will have their impact on Pakistan as well.

"Pakistan is an important Asian state, and Russia is ready to cooperate with it in the field of defence," said Mr Vengerovskiy during his meeting with Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Khalid Kharal here on Monday [25 September].

Mr Vengerovskiy is also the deputy of Mr Zhirinovskiy and his Liberal Democratic Party in Russia. He arrived here on Sunday. During his meeting with Mr Kharal, he stressed the need for exploring more avenues to strengthen relations between Russia and Pakistan, especially in the economic sphere. He emphasised the same

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thing in his meeting on Monday with Speaker Yusuf Raza Gilani.

On Monday evening, Russian Ambassador in Pakistan, Aleksandr Y Alekseyev held a reception in the honour of Mr Vengerovskiy and other members of the Russian delegation led by him, including Leonid N Petrovskiy, Chairman of the Sub-Committee of the Russian Parliament, the Duma, and V E Kopnov, the Duma's Consultant of the Inter-Parliamentary Relations Department.

Mr Zhirinovskiy, the leader of hawks in Russia, had made derogatory remarks against Pakistan during his visit to India last year, terming the creation of Pakistan as an un-natural offense in the history. Mr Zhirinovskiy had also talked about dropping a nuclear bomb on Karachi once his Liberal Democratic Party came to power in Russia.

"Pakistan has made a mistake by not inviting first to Mr Zhirinovskiy. Had Pakistan invited him first, he would not have made such a statement against Pakistan," said the deputy of Mr Zhirinovskiy, while responding to a question posed to him by Talat Masud former Pakistani General and ex-chief of the Pakistan Ordinance Factories at Wah in the Russian Embassy reception.

"I may difer with Mr Zhirinovskiy. About India, Mr Zhirinovskiy said that it would disintegrate, and that Pakistan should be ready for its Implications. "I have discussed all this in my book 'I Wish What I Can,' which will be out this year."

At the reception, the military attache of the Russian Embassy in Pakistan was of the view that any credible advancement between Pakistan and Russia would be possible only after the coming into force of a new government in Russia.

For the last many months, the Benazir Bhutto's government has been negotiating with the Russians the purchase of Russia's SU-27 aircraft. Even the military circles admit that the government has been forced to pursue this option in view of the non-availability of F-16s from the United States. So far, all the Russian defence delegations that have visited the country for the purpose have dithered on this deal.

"This deal will be possible only after the coming into power of new rulers in Russia," said the Russian defence attache while talking to The Nation.

"We will win the next elections," said the Deputy Chairman of the Russian Parliament with his worry beads. Mr Vengerovskiy claimed victory for his and Mr. Zhirinovskiy's Liberal Democratic Party not only in the Russian Parliament Duma's polls in December but in the Russian presidential elections of June 1996. For his highly nationalistic and hardline stance, Mr. Zhirinovskiy has been criticized widely in the West, particularly by leaders of the United States.

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